Sudan closes Saudi newspaper office

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government shut down the Khartoum office of a leading Saudi Arabian newspaper for alleged non-journalistic political activity, the government said Saturday. An Information Ministry statement quoted in the weekly government newspaper Darfur Al Gadida was Sudan's first acknowledgment of the action already reported by the Saudi paper. Al Sharqa Al Awsat. The statement said authorities seized with the newspaper's Khartoum reporter and leaflets that retwarded his connection with a sectation. "documents and leaflets that revealed bis connection with a sectarian leader and bis aides." It gave no names. Al Sharq Al Awsat identified the reporter as Mohammad Abdul Sayed and said Sudanese intelligence agents arrested him. The closure appeared rooted in severe diplomatic and political strains between Sudan and Saudi Arabia since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Saudi Arabia resented Khartoum's support of Iraq and stopped all financial aid and oil supplies to Sudan. Al Sharq Al Awsat, published in Saudi Arabia and London, said the closure took effect at the end of January. The newspaper quoted a Sudanese official as saying in a letter to Mr. Abdul Sayed "grossly exceeded press ethics." He will remain in custody pending "administrative and judiciary decisions,"



جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن الموسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرايء

UAE vows to regain Gulf islands

ABU DHABI (R) - President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan said Saturday the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would make every effort to regain three Gulf islands from Iran Friendly ties and cooperation between the two states depended on tran taking steps to resolve the maner, he said in a speech to the Federal National Council read by his son, Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan, tran's continued occupation of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs was a threat to regional stability and a "violation of its declared desire to develop ties." Sheikh Zayed said. Iran has virtually annexed Abu Musa, jointly controlled by the two countries since 1971. The Tunbs were occupied by Iran under the late Shah in the same year, tran told the UAE and its Gulf Arab allies in December they would have to "cross a sea of blood" to get to the strategic islands. The council's debates are expected to focus on post-Gulf war security issues, the dispute with Iran and cutting back on a foreign workforce which makes up more than 70 per cent of the country's two million population, veteran member Abdullah Al Muhairby told Reuters carlier. Mr. Muhairby was elected speaker later Saturday, the UAE's news agency WAM said.

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AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1993, SHA'BAN 15, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cabinet Saturday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minis-ter Zeid Ben Shaker and approved a new administrative Health aiming to implement administrative reforms in the ministry. The system, prepared by the ministry in cooperation with the Public Administration Institute and the Civil Service Commission, entails decentralis-ing the health departments in the Kingdom. It divides the Kingdom into three regions and gives special prominence to improving the in ministry's services. The Cabinet also approved Jordan's joining an organisation for protecting plants, made up of seventeen countries from the Near East.

Husseini seeks Romanian help

BUCHAREST (R) - A senior Palestinian official asked Romania Saturday to mediate in the expulsion crisis with Israel which bas stalled the Middle East peace talks. Faisal Al Husseini, adviser to the Palestinian delegation in the peace talks, made the plea in Bucharest meetings with President Ion Iliescu and Foreign Minister Theodor Melescanu. The request was apparently part of a broader diplomatic offensive by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "I pointed out the role which Romania could play, much evident, to promote the peace process," Mr. Husseini told Romanian radio after his Bucharest discussions. "We express our hope Romania will intervene to stop the (Israeli) policy of expulsion and to remove the obstacles which Israel keeps placing in the way of the peace process," he said.

Israeli protests Ghali-PLO meeting

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has protested to the United Nations at Secretary-General Boutros Gbali discussing Middle East peace talks with a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Saturday. The radio said Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Gad Yaacobi, sent Dr. Ghali a message saying he was astonished he had met PLO observer Nasser Al Kidwa rather than Palestinian negotiators to the talks. A foreign ministry spokesman said he did not know of the protest.

: Shoval hits Labour

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel's outgoing ambassador to Washington said Saturday he was unhappy representing the Labour-led government because he did not share its views. Zalman Shoval, who was appointed by the previous government of the right-wing Likud, will be replaced next week by Itamar Rabinovich, a professor who heads Israel's delegation to peace negotiations with Syria. "In ali, I am not happy with this government and I do not esperially desire to represent it ... this s not exactly the government I would want to be identified with for the long term," Mr. Shoval

Militants declare war on TV Bible film

SRINAGAR, India (R) - Musim militants in India's Jammu ind Kashmir state said Saturday hey had declared war on a televiion serial because it depicts charicters from the Bible. They harged that "Stories from the Bible, shown on Sundays by tate-run Doordarshan television. vas blasphemous to Islam. "All rophets including Jesus Christ and Moses are held in equal everence by the Muslims and no nortal can play their character," he underground Islamic group amait-Ul-Mujahedeen, said in a 21ement



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bringing to six the number of Gazans killed in two days of clashes, the Israeb army said. 27 Palestinians in demonstrations throughout the Gaza Strip Saturday, Palestinian sources said.

> Troops shot dead Ashraf Al Daaour early Saturday in Jabalya refugee camp while he was attending a wake for one of the five Palestinians killed Friday,

OCCUPIED GAZA STR1P (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot

dead a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip on Saturday,

Soldiers also shot and wounded

Mourners were angered when Israeli troops disturbed their pro-cession and began stoning the forces, witnesses said. The troops

opened fire, killing Daaour. The army said soldiers killed the boy when they fired on demonstrators who threw stone blocks and iron pipes and endangered there lives. One para-military border policeman was

Israeli soldiers kill six

in violence after Israel shot dead three Palestinians it claimed were armed Friday. Soldiers killed two other Palestinians — one of them a 14-year-old boy — in demon-strations that followed.

The army confined about 120,000 residents of Nusseirat. Bureij and Jabalya refugee camps in Gaza to their homes Saturday. But protestors defied the curfews to confront soldiers. Must of those wounded were in Jabalya.

Majdi Arabid, a cameraman for the Worldwide Television News (WTN) was shot in the leg and lightly wounded while filming the clashes in Jabalya.

Israelis bave killed 1,009 Palestinians since the start of an uprising against Israeli occupa- told reporters.

Gazans in two days

Tensions in the Gaza Strip wounded, the army said. were heightened by Israel's Dec.
The squalid Strip where 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians 750,000 Palestinians live erupted accused of finks to Islamic fundamentalists groups. Many were residents of the Strip.

The weekend's bloodshed was the worst since Dec. 19, when six Palestinians died in clashes with the army followed the Dec. 17

Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid denounced the killing of Palestinians by Israeli troops in the occupied territories, saying such acts would only fuel tension in the

"I strongly condemn these Israeli practices... which further complicate the situation... such acts must stop because their con-tinuation will increase tension in the region," Dr. Abdul Meguid

PLO says Baghdad now Algeria's endorses peace process BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq, which had rejected the Middle East Wednesday that in spite of the lack of progress in talks so far.

peace process, has changed its policy and now endorses Palesti-nian talks with the Israelis, the Palestinian ambassador said

"Now, as an Iraqi leadership they will accept what the Palestinian leadership accepts and this is a positive change, a great positive change," Ambassador Azam Al Ahmad told the Associated Press

said. "Logically, it must help with the West. them ... the West is mistaken if Endorsing the they think Iraqis don't want relations with the West."

mat here, said Iraqi President international community," Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi said. officials made the new Iraqi position explicit in talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation world in the past three years "and (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, from this point of view they are who visited this week.

Mr. Arafat told reporters

MOGADISHU (AP) - Somali

clans clashed Saturday with rifles,

grenades, sticks and stones for a

second day along the contested "green line" dividing Mogadishn

into rival warlord's territories.

More than 100 U.S. Marines

tween several hundred shout-

positioned themselves directly

ing, rock-throwing Somalis from

the two factions. None of the

attacks were directed at the Marines and they held their fire.

The only thing we're trying to do here is keep them from killing

each other," said the Marine

commander on the scene.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ed Lesno-

Somali clans clash;

Marines turn buffer

the Iraqi leader "encouraged us to continue in our attempts to achieve real peace. Ambassador Abmad elabo-

rated on that statement, but Iraqi officials have not been available to answer reporters' questions about Iraq's position on the peace

Mr. Ahmad said the change in Iraq's position had been gradual in an interview.

and came as no surprise, as Bagtidad sought to end its internationthe dialogue with the West," he al isolation and open a dialogue

Endorsing the peace process, he said, is part of Iraq's strategy. "It ... is a part of the dialogue Mr. Ahmad, a veteran diplo- which they asked for with the he

Iraq, be said, now understands the events and changes in the

Continued on page 5)

wicz. "So far we've been able to

keep the groups out of a major confrontation."

Col. Lesnowicz reported the

Marines evacuated eight Somalis

to hospitals with gunshot and

grenade wounds. They included a

mortally wounded 13-year-old

boy who was dumped on the

(Continued on page 3)

former top general on trial ALGIERS (R) - Algeria's for-

mer top military man, retired General Mostefa Beloucif, went on trial Saturday on corruption charges that carry a possible death sentence.

The official news agency APS said Gen. Beloucif, a close associate and onetime heir apparent of former President Chadli Benjedid, was being tried in Blida military court on charges of mis-appropriation and misuse of state

The charges relate to a period between 1981 and 1986 with Mr. Benjedid was both president and defence minister. Newspapers said Mr. Benjedid could be called as a witness.

A report published last year said 38.7 million French francs (\$86.9 million at current exchange rates) was involved plus 10 million dinars (\$475,000) and Italian, Japanese and U.S. cur-

The report said Gen. Beloucif had luxury villas in Algeria, a yacht and spent eight million francs (\$1.4 million) furnishing a Paris apartment.

State radio said he faced a ossible death sentence.

Military courts in Algeria are closed to foreign journalists but Algerian reporters said the court rejected a prosecution request to hold the trial behind closed

Marine lines after grenade frag-Independent newspapers said the trial was eagerly awaited by Algerians, angered by reports of ments ripped through his head. The Marines suffered no casualties, but some were tense as corruption and vast wealth at the fighting virtually encircled most of the country's 26 million people struggle to survive. "Everybody's frightened," said

This trial also confirms a certain determination displayed by the public authorities to turn all the light on corruption," said

L'Opinion newspaper. Gen. Beloucif, granted bail by a civilian court in November 1990, was ordered detained last May by the military court. APS said Colonel Fekir

Mohammad Hebri, former planning and budget director, and Tidjani Abdul Kader, formerly in charge of general administration at the presidency, also were ordered detained. The three faced conspiracy charges, it said.

They were held less than a week after the newspaper Al Watan made public a 1989 report by five senior generals on mismanagement or misuse of more tban 37 million French francs (almost \$87 milion). One of the generals who wrote

the report was Khaled Nezzar, now defence minister and a member of Algeria's five-man pres-Lawyers, before the trial

opened, indicated Gen. Beloucif would focus his defence on his carrying out Mr. Benjedid's orders.

Gen. Beloucif was secretarygeneral at the Defence Ministry but Mr. Benjedid sacked him in the mid-1980s. The 1989 investigation was completed as Mr. Benjedid was re-elected president for a third term.

Jordan seeks strong ties with ex-Soviet republics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday voiced Jordan's desire to maintain strong ties and cooperation in various fields with the newly independent Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

The King also voiced Jordan's readiness to provide these republics with Jordanian expertise wherever possible.

He was addressing a Jordanian delegation due to fly to Moscow Monday on a visit to the Russian Federation and the independent republics.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Sbaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Karaki and Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid.

Saadeddin Al Alami

Mufti of

Jerusalem

dies at 82

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Saadeddin Jalakddin

Al Alami, the mufti of Jeru-

salem and the occupied West

Bank who led the defence of

He died of heart failure

after a long illness, said his

son and doctor, Ahmad Al

Sheikh Alami helped estab-

lish the Islamic High Council

following Israel's occupation

of Arab East Jerusalem in

The council led the political

battle to protect holy sites in

the third boliest city in Islam

from Israeli encroachment.
Sheikh Alami was appointed musti of Jerusalem

and the West Bank by Jordan

in 1952. The position of mufti,

traditionally a state official who administers Islamic jus-

tice, gained political signifi-

cance in Jerusalem following

died Saturday at 82.

who is leading the delegation. The King voiced his delight at the high level of the delegation. which includes a group of people representing various Jordanian

The King expressed pride in and satisfaction with the response of the leaders of these republics towards Jordan's bid to bolster relations. He said Jordan should pursue all efforts towards strengthening its ties and cooperation with the Islamic republics based on mutual confidence and re-

King Hussein expressed Jordan's readiness to welcome leaders from the Islamic republics.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with a high-level delegation which leaves Monday on a visit to the Russian Federation and the independent Islamic republies of the furmer Soviet Union (Petra

The delegation groups promin-

through the Islamic faith and ent figures from the religious.

Arafat asks Egypt to help return home of all evictees

Rabin says peace talks were faltering before Dec. 17; Abdul Meguid calls on Security Council for next step

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINE LEADER Yasser Arafat has urged Egypt to seek a speedy return of the remaining 396 Palestinians expelled by Israel to South Lebanon, Arab diplomats said Saturday.

Mr. Arafat, in talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, asked Egypt to use its influence to make Israel comply with U.N. Resolution 799, which ordered Israel to let the Palestinians expelled seven weeks ago return home immediately.

"Discussions focused on the process of solving the crisis through the return of all the (expellees) ... on the mechanism of applying 799, whether in one phase or two phases," Saced Kam-al, the PLO ambassador to

Egypt, told Reuters.
"We demanded assurances that all the (expellees) will be returned home in a short period in order to allow the peace talks to

resume," said Mr. Kamal, who attended the Friday night talks. Egypt, the only Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with

Israel, has been involved in intensive diplomatic talks with Israel, the United States and the United Nations to resolve the crisis. Mr. Arafat was holding talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa

later concerning the evictees and flagging Middle East peace talks. The Arab diplomats said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Mubarak discussed diplomatic ways to enforce Resolution 799 without resorting

to the Security Council to force

Israel to comply.
Allowing IOI of the expellees the advent of Zionism at the end of the last century. to return to their homes was part Sheikh Alami, who was of a U.S.-Israeli deal announced born in Jerusalem, is survived on Monday. One aim of the deal, by his wife, Muzha Al Khaldi which was rejected by the Palesti-Al Alami, 55, and three sons nians who want all to go home or and four daughters. none, was to undercut the move



to impose sanctions on Israel. ism and the time" for repatriating the evictees was "left in the hands of the negotiators" - Egypt and the United States - but that there was a common agreement that the exiled men must go back in a short period.
Other diplomatic sources said

Egypt, the United States and the Palestinians were aiming for a solution before April to give the 15-month-old peace negotiations a chance to take off again after a

long recess. The sources said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. due to visit Israel and Arab countries from Feb. 17 to 24, wanted to defuse the crisis and revive the

stalled talks. The United States - sponsoring the negotiations involving Israel and Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians - has postponed multilateral talks onginally set for next week and suggested bilateral talks resume

only in mid-April. Palestinian peace negotiators have said they will not take part in the talks with Israel until all the evictees go back to the Israelioccupied territories.

Mr. Musa said Cairo and Washington were working hard to reach an agreement with Israel to return all the evictees within weeks and to reactivate the peace He said Israel's offer to return

101 and cut exile terms of the rest was "a step in the night direction which has to be followed immediately by other steps to en-sure the full return of all (expel-

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said the peace talks flagged before the expulsions and the delay caused by the banishment was a timely recess.

"I felt in the last stages that the were beginning to blur. There was no movement," Mr. Rabin said in an interview with Israel Television Friday night.

"I think the time out will give us an opportunity... together with the Americans and other elements... to learn more about the problem, in order to really begin

negotiations," he said. Mr. Rabin, criticised in Israel for making the compromise offer. said the Arabs were upset because they had no part in formulating the proposal.

"They say, Look here, the Israelis and the Americans have come to an understanding ... without our participation in that understanding. "Mr. Rabin understanding.

In Marj Al Zohour, Lebanon, the Palestinian evictees said U.S. efforts to rescue the peace talks would bear fruit only if Israel allowed them all to return home. "We think that Christopher's

visit will not lead to any results (Continued on page S)

30 Jordanian deputies urge Clinton to free Larouche

AMMAN (AP) - Thirty Jorda- ber of Deputies with 22 seats. nian lawmakers Saturday urged President Bill Clinton to free former fringe presidential candi-date Lyndon Larouche, who is serving a 15-year sentence for mail fraud.

In a letter to the U.S. presi- of Mr. Larouche. dent, legislators also asked for Mr. Clinton's "direct intervention to...end the political persecution against Larouche's movement."

"It is our understanding that throughout his public life Larouche has been a defender of the right to sovereign development of all nations on the planet and of the inalienable rights of all men and women," said the letter, a copy of which was made available to the Associated Press.

"For these reasons, Mr. President, we ask you to take prompt and resolute action to repair this injustice by immediately freeing Lyndon Larouche," the letter

The one-page letter was signed by 30 lawmakers, including members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, the largest single bloc in Jordan's 80-man ChamThe move was believed to be

prompted by Leith Shubeilat, a prominent human rights activist and a popular parliamentarian Mr. Shubeital is a close friend

In the letter, lawmakers said Mr. Larouche, "has been unjustly incarcerated as a political prisoner in a federal prison in

Rochester, Minnesota. This was the result of a politically motivated, rushed trial...that trampled upon the most basic rights of the defendant and which concluded by imposing a cruel sent-Mr. Larouche, 69, was sent-

enced to a 15-year prison term after he was convicted in federal court of mail fraud in 1989. A political extremist, he called

for the quarantine of all AIDS victims, claimed Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was a drug dealer and advocated the colonisation of He ran for the presidency of

the United States several times. the last of which was in 1989. getting just 25,000 votes.

Clinton to cut luxuries starting at White House

dent Bill Clinton announced plans Saturday to cut "needless luxuries" in government, starting with payrolls, perquisites and pri-vileges at the White House, in an effort to begin reducing the U.S. budget deficit.

'We've got to control the cost of government, starting with my own people," Mr. Clinton said in his first live presidential radio address, a seven-minute speech modelled on the radio speeches Ronald Reagan once used to

castigate big government. In the 1992 campaign, Mr. Clinton said he would reduce the While House staff by 25 per cent.

"I'll be making bit cuts in the White House staff, cutting payrolls and perks and pri-vileges," Mr. Clinton said.

"I want to set an example so that I can take the fight to the rest of the government to eliminate unnecessary commissions, to reduce the federal payroll, to get rid of needless luxuries like posh dining rooms," he said.

An announcement on the details of the cuts at the White. House could come early next

WASHINGTON (R) - Presi- week. There was speculation that some of the reductions would hit career clerical workers who would be replaced by unpaid voluntcers.

Mr. Clinton, who put highpowered lobbyists Ron Brown and Mickey Kantor in his cabinet as commerce secretary and U.S. trade representative respectively, vowed to "rake on the lobbvists for the special interest that have grown used to getting special favours.

Mr. Clinton was setting the stage for a Feb. 17 speech to Congress in which he will outline the painful mix of higher taxes and spending cuts he proposes to spark steady. long-term economic growth and also reduce the budget deficit. He said the government is spending about \$1.20 for every dollar it receives in

Our goal was to make the department more efficient, more responsible and more directed. particularly at the agenda of the new administration," said Depu-

(Continued on page 5)



An American Marine films food distribution in Mogadishn (AFP

Hospitals say nearly 3,000 peoslide into a "prolonged and stuple have been injured in the latest round of fighting and several hundred have been killed, pid" war as in Lebanon, he said. although the exact number was not known since few bodies are

> now aligned with the Shiite Hezbe-Wahdat party, have heen attacking kabul intermittently since the Mujahedeen took Kabul from its former communist rulers last April.

when 2,500 people were killed, and have since subjected Kabul to sporadic attacks. IN Jalalabad, the provincial

of four United Nations workers, officials said.

The suspects, from Yemen, Lihya and Algeria, were arrested and then led before the firing squad after being stripped oI bis rank. It was not bis style."

He admitted for the first time that Oufkir was solely responsible for killing the left-wing Moroccan political leader Mehdi Ben Barka in Paris in 1965.

A Paris court sentenced Oufkir to life imprisonment in absentia for his part in Ben Barka's disappearance.

Gulf war.

gence Committee investigators.

making the loans to Iraq.

withheld because of bureaucratic

"CIA's mishandling of its role

.. was the result of many factors,

especially the lack of dialogue

between the CIA and (the) Jus-

tice" Department, said the report

by the inspector general. He attri-huted the problems to "flawed

train wreck coming ... and to act."

James Woolsey was sworn in as

the new agency director in a

The internal CIA investigation

was commissioned last October

private ceremony

the inspector general.

than any intent to deceive.

"I was placed before the fait accompli with the death of Ben Barka. I did not take part in any way, either by giving orders or even by listening ... I am not guilty of anything in the dis-appearance of Mebdi," King Hassan said.

He said he was unaware of the severe conditions in which Oufkir's wife and children were held in custody for 17 years, or that military personnel convicted for their part in the abortive coups were also held in extremely harsh conditions at Tazmamart.

For several years the king and the government denied the existence of Tazmamart, where 62 members of the armed forces were detained. Hnman rights groups like Amnesty International said conditions were so harsh that half of them died in custody.

The survivors were released and Tazmamart was demolished in September 1991. "Quite frankly I did not think that conditions

were like that," the king said. The king said 60 per cent of his choices had proved wrong and 40 He vaid Oufkir shot himself in per cent right. "I had the courage the head because "he would not to see my faults and to correct have accepted to be tried by his them," he concluded.

in BNL-Iraq loan scam

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trying to do anything but a good Central Intelligence Agency job," Mr. Gates wrote. "Yet, no Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was criticised Friday by the one in the CIA has anything to be Senate Intelligence Committee proud of in this case and by the agency's own inspec-tor general for mishandling its undertaken after a storm of Demo-Both investigations were

role in a politically sensitive legal cratic criticism starting last sum-case involving \$4 billion in unaumer alleging that the Bush admithorised loans to Iraq before the nistration deliberately botched the prosecution of the Iraq loans In a report made public Friday, case in order to cover up its support for President Saddam the CIA's inspector general Hussein before Iraq's August found "carelessness" and "poor 1990 invasioo of Kuwait. judgement" on the agency's part.

After taking depositions from 24 CIA officials and reviewing The findings closely parallel those in a 163-page report released earlier Friday after a three-month tbousands of classified docuinvestigation by Senate Intelliments, Senate investigators found that the agency "produced occa-sional intelligence analyses whose The committee report con-cluded that the CIA and the conclusions were squarely at odds Justice Department failed to prowith the evidence being developed by the crimmal investigavide prosecutors with significant information in the case of the

Atlanta bank manager accused of But while these analyses were conveyed to some offices outside Like the CIA's inspector the CIA, neither the attorneys at general, the Senate investigation the Justice Department overconcluded the information was seeing the case nor the federal prosecutors working on it in bungling and ineptitude rather Atlanta could recall seeing them.

Specifically, committee investigators found that intelligence analysts concinded in several documents that officials at the headquarters of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Rome knew their Branch manager in Atlanta was making off-the-book loans to Iraq.

performance by many indi-viduals" and "the failure of a number of managers to see this Yet the prosecution's case was built on the premise that the manager, Christopher Drogoul, An abridged, unclassified veracted on his own to defraud BNL sion of the inspector general's of more than \$4 billion. report was issued hours after R.

"As a result of CIA's failure to provide this information previously, the criminal investigation was deprived of important inby then-CIA Director Robert
Gates, who said in a parting letter
Ga formation that potentially could

withdraw a guilty plea last year after information contradictory to that he accepted all the conclusions and recommendations of the government's basic premise "There is no indication ...that came to light. He is expected to anyone had base motives or was stand trial this year.

Ghall hails Oman-Yemen boundary accord

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali congratulated. U.N. envoys from Oman and Yemen Friday on the final demarcation of their countries' disputed border after 10 years of negotiations. Ambassador Salim Ben Mohammad Al Khussaiby of Oman and Yemen's charge d'affaires, Mohammad Ahmad Mohammad Basalamah, held a joint meeting with the secretarygeneral the day after they registered the new boundary agreement with the U.N.'s Department of Legal Affairs. "This final demarcation of the boundary between Yemen and Oman is in conformity with the principles of the U.N. Charter on the peaceful settlement of disputes," a U.N. spokesman commented.

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Khamenei pardons more prisoners

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene has pardoned II6 clerics, convicted and jailed by special religious tribunals, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. It said the decree was issued at the request of Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, but did not lisclose the crimes or the sentences of those pardoned. It was the second amnesty decreed by Ayatollah Khamenei this week as the nation celebrates the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. On Friday, IRNA said Ayatollah Khamenei had pardoned 619 prisoners. The dispatch, however, also did not cite their crimes or the length of the prison terms. IRNA noted that the amnesties came on the eve of the birthday of an important Shitte imam and coincides with celebrations this month of the 1979 revolution that toppled the Shah of Iran.

Bush meets with Turkish president

HOUSTON (AP) - Former President George Bush entertained a foreign dignitary for the first time since leaving office when Turkish President Turgut Ozal visited him Friday. Mr. Bush and Mr. Ozal met for about 20 minutes at Mr. Bush's Houston office and then went to lunch. "When I see him we have a lot to talk about," Mr. Bush said during a hrief photo-taking session outside his office building. Mr. Bush called Mr. Ozal a good friend of the United States and said the visit was unofficial. He would not disclose the nature of their discussions. Mr. Ozal is making his annual trip to Houston for medical examinations. He has undergone a number of surgeries in recent years at Texas Medical Centre, including eye surgery and a heart bypass operation. He underwent a checkup earlier in the day before meeting with Mr. Bush and was headed for another after their lunch. Mr. Ozal was schedoled to travel to Washington Sunday and meet with President Bill Clinton Monday. then return to Turkey.

Police arrest 20 for bomb attacks In Turkey

ANKARA (AP) --- Tweoty people accused of belonging to a leftist group have been arrest for bomb attacks on Turkish compaoies and Western embassies over the past two years, police announced. The announcement said the suspects were members of the Front for the Turkish People's Salvation Party, a group active io the 1970s before the military cracked down on extremist groups. Six were arrested in Ankara last week and their interrogations led to the capture of the others in six other Turkish cities, the police said. The bombings were carried out against several Turkish firms and the embassies of the United States, France and Britain in Ankara. There were no casualties and damage was light. Those arrested had been convicted for similar crimes and served jail terms before being released a few years ago, benefiting from a partial amnesty, the police announcement said.

'Nazi hunter' denies knowledge of Demjanjuk papers

LOS ANGELES (R) - A former attorney with the Justice Department's "Nazi, bunter" unit denied knowledge Friday of documents that purportedly could have helped clear suspected war criminal Joho Demjanjuk. Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born Cleveland acto worker, was convicted in Israel in 1988 of being "Ivan the terrible," a gas chamber operator at the Treblinka camp during World War II. He has appealed bis conviction to Israel's supreme court. Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel after being stripped of his U.S. citizenship. Citing new evidence from the former Sovie Union, he is challenging bis extradition io the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Documents and photographs released by Moscow show that another man, identified as Ivan Marchenko. could have been the real "Ivan." The appeals court appointed U.S. District Judge Thomas Weisman as a special master to investigate whether the Justice Department's office of special investigations withheld evidence from Demjanjuk's lawyers that cast doubt on his identity in advance of the denaturalisation trial. The former Justice Department office of special investigation attorney, Bruce Einhoro, was questioned at a special hearing in Los Angeles Friday by Ed Marek, a federal public defender in Cleveland who is acting as Demjanjuk's attorney. During the three-hour session before Mr. Weisman, Mr. Einhorn, who is now an immigration judge, denied be had seen a memo from a colleague expressing doubt Demjanjuk was really "Ivan." At Friday's hearing, Mr. Einhorn denied seeiog documents which purportedly cast doubt on Demjanjuk being "Ivan" and said he had no knowledge of any documents being withheld from Demjanjuk's lawyers before or during the denaturalisation and extradition properties. alisation and extradition proceedings.

Iranian avalanche death toll rises to 10

NICOSIA (AP) - An avalanche killed 10 people and injured 38 others when it swept over a busy mountain highway northeast of Tehran Friday, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. Two mini-buses and four cars driving towards the Shemshak ski resort were damaged in the avalanche, caused by heavy rainfall in recent days, said IRNA. In the Iranian plains, torrential rain over the past three days has caused millions of dollars' worth of damage to homes, farmland and roads, the agency

Zimbabwean president arrives in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Zimhabwe's President Robert Mugabe arrived in Tehran Saturday for a two-day official visit, the Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported. IRNA said Mr. Mugabe was welcomed at Mehrabad internacional airport by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Mr. Mugabe told reporters he would discuss bilateral relations, the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement and international affairs. He praised Iran for its support for Zimbabwe in its fight against South African apartheid, IRNA said.

Cairo (GF)

Hassan II says he would retire before senility | CIA under fire for role

RABAT (R) — In a book published Friday King Hassan of Morocco, 63, said he would retire and hand over power to a successor_before he went senile.

Today I am in a hurry because I think there comes a time when one must not fall into senile decay and drag one's country after one." he told the French journalist Eric Laurent in the book La Memoire d'un Roi (The Memory of A King).

When one reaches a certain age one must hand over ... people should have the possibility of retiring," he said in the 304-page book, written in the form of questions and answers and based on a series of interviews last

August. "After 45 years one has the feeling one is getting old. You know power is like a grindstone. If you touch it lightly it sharpens, otherwise if you press too hard it

Asked if he wanted to finish his days in office he replied: "No, if I had the choice and if God wills

Under the constitution the king's successor is his elder son, Crown Prince Sidi Mohammad. 29. currently visiting France. His younger son, Prince Moulay

Rachid, will be 22 in June. But the king hinted that his successor did not have to be the

crown prince.
"Of course a crown prince has to be named, in case there is a sudden disappearance. There must be no vacuum. But the decision must be ratified by a beyia (the traditional act of allegiance) as may father did when he

KABUL (Agencies) - A leading

peace negotiator in Afghanistan

says the country's hattling leaders

are a long way from silencing

their guns and could become bog-ged down in a Lebanon-style

Ayotollah Mohsini, a peace mediator from a moderate Shiite

party, has shuttled several times

between President Burhanuddin

Rahbani and his arch rival Gul-

huddin Hekmatyar, chief of the

fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami

party, to try to negotiate a truce.

Kabul Friday as officials of the

few remaining embasses in the

shell-battered capital met to dis-

cuss whether to evacuate their

wounded diplomat and 13 staff

tested Friday the publication by

the United Nations of a Palesti-

nian letter containing what he

said was an ancient lie that has

sparked many attacks against

Mr. Lior said the 53-nation

U.N. Commission on Human

Rights had failed to distance itself

This is what discourages us on

He was referring to a letter

written by Palestine representa-

tive Nabil Ramlawi to the com-

mission last Oct. 7, which was

Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of

The letter was reprinted by the

U.N. with a date of Dec. 3 and

included in a file of documents

given to delegations for this

year's sessiun of the Human Rights Commission, which

out and distributed it now when the session started." Lior said.

The letter accused Israel of

The commission kind of dug it

from anti-Semilic expressions.

end." Lior said.

opened Monday.

22:00 22:20

Mujahedeen groups.

Sporadic artillery fire rocked

protracted war.

made me crown prince. The right of primogeniture should not be inevitable. He said it was a very important

problem which "preoccupies me enormously, so much so that I propose writing a decree. He said the marriages of future

princes would be codified "because I want to ban once and for all for everyone a (royal) marriage with a foreigner, whether an Arab or a Musłim The king recalled his dealings

with numerous heads of state he has met during his 32-year reign. "For (Libyan leader Muam-

mar) Qadhafi anyone installed on a throne was inevitably a traitor" and until the 1980s he was "completely un predictable and uncontrollable. But despite everything he has a quality: When he gives his word he really keeps it," he

The king said Colonel Qadhafi had tried several times to overthrow him and he had also tried to oust the Lihyan leader. "For my part the attempts were not so

frequent ..." He gave no details.

He said Ahmad Ben Bella, Algeria's first president, was "an irascible person extremist in language" and after a brief war over their disputed border in 1963 he refused to speak to him, "If I met him tomorrow I would refuse to shake his hand."

His successor, Houari Boumedienne, was "very reserved, suspicious, introverted, relating everything to himself, rarely relaxing. But over the years we became excellent friends."

Mr. Boumedienne's successor, Chadli Benjedid, he described

Peace unlikely in Afghanistan –

King Hassan

pride or hrutality.

as "a man without any wicked-

ness, good, just and without any

The king said corruption, espe-

cially a scandal over four minis-

ters who were later convicted.

was one of the main modvadons

for an abortive coup in 1971,

when I,400 troops stormed his

He reaffirmed that his former

defence minister, General

Mohammad Oufkir, master-

minded a second abortive coup in

1972 when air force jets tried to

shoot down his airliner.

seaside palace at Skhirat near

brought to hospitals. Mr. Hekmatyar says Mr. Rabbani came to power through a rigged vote by a national assembly and must step down before talks can start. Mr. Rabbani is demanding Mr. Hekmatyar remove his heavy artillery out of range of Kabul.

"Their opinions are not close to each other and they have some particular differences," Mr. Mohsini said in an interview late Thorsday.

Mr. Mohsini warned that The Iranian ambassador, a Afghanistan faced three "nightmare" scenarios if the warring sides failed to agree on a cease-Afghanistan's former commun-

Indian diplomats and several Pakistanis after 18 days of fierce rocket exchanges between govist rulers could take back power erament troops and renegade as in Tajikistan, foreign forces would be forced 10 intervenc as in

Gaza Strip. Mr. Lior said Israel

especially objected to the inclu-

sion of one paragraph, which

"It would appear that the

Israeli occupation authorities,

who are today celebrating the day

of atonement (Yom Kippur), are

never fully happy even on reli-

gious occasions unless their

celebrations, as usual, are

marked by Palestinian blood and

the immolation of innocent, de-

fenceless members of the Palesti-

Israeli envoy sees 'blood

libel' in Palestinian letter

GENEVA (AP) — Israeli committing a massacre in the Ambassador Itzhak Lior protown of Rafah in the occupied

said:

nian people."

Somalia or the country would

Mr. Mohsini, who leads a peace team made up on delegates from seven of the main Mujahedeen parties, said he planned to talk next to individual commanders around Kabul to persuade them to support his negotiations. Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb forces,

They launched a brutal offensive on the capital in August

Tuesday hy the government of eastern Nangarhar province in the shooting deaths of a Briton, a Dutchman and two Afehans.

- mediator

The shooting by three unidentified gunmen occurred Monday near the town of Surkh Diwal, 15 kilometres east of Jalalabad, the provincial capital. The U.N. workers' vehicle was ambushed while they were travelling to Jala-lahad from the Pakistani border

city of Peshawar. The United Nations has since suspended its activities in the area and recalled its foreign workers from Jalalabad.

The Arab suspects were picked up from their base camp near the scene of the shooting, officials said. They were among thousands of Arabs who participated in the 14-year war against communist rule that ended in April.

After three days Arabs suspected in the murders ing, officials said, the suspects were freed but ordered to move their camp away from the main highway that leads through

Nangarhar to Kabul.

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said Saturday the Brit-ish government should avoid politicising the row over Iran's death

An editorial in the Englishlanguage Tehran Times said relations with Iran were a "two-way street" and Britain should "face the realities and refrain from further politicising the issue." (IRNA) said the paper's comments followed the British Foreign Office meeting with Mr. Rushdie for "the first time Thursday and declaring that it was

Mr. Lior said the writer had taken word-for-word an ancient with Iran against the fatwa issued "hlood libel" against the Jews, and accused the writer of inserting "Israeli occupation author-ities" for "Jews" and "Palestinian" for "Christian."

Similar statements against the Jews have appeared "through generations of Western history-...primarily before the celebration of Easter, but also before Jewish holidays." he said. government support.

Iran warns Britain not to politicise Rushdie affair

order against authur Salman

The Iranian news agency taking a confrontational stand

The Indian-born author held 45 minutes of talks with Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg and officials Thursday.

The 44-year-old author, accused by Iran of blaspheming Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses," said he believed his visit represented a symbolic show of

The attitude of the British government has been "so irresponsi-bile and wilful that it creates the impression that the blasphemous book might have been an officially approved undertaking to humiliate Islam," said the newspaper. helieved to he close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

It said Mr. Rushdie's overseas trips and visit to the Foreign Office proved "Britain's ill-will towards the world Muslims." Mr. Rushdie has appeared in public in England several times in the past year, giving speeches and attending literary functions. He

has also travelled to the United States and Ireland. The paper said the British government was using Mr. Rushdie

to damage relations with Iran. "It must know that any pressure or threats will not succeed in baving the decree overturned," it Mr. Rushdie says he now sees

more support at high levels for his case from some Western governments, the New York Times re-

Hamas seeks Iran's help, waits for funds TEHRAN (AP) - Imad Al Aza- successful. The Azeris elected a:

mi of Hamas says be is still nationalist. Turkic president last waiting for the \$20 million the spring, and Tajikistan is oow Iranian government promised in controlled by former commun-November 1991 to help bis group, ists, with an isolated Islamic in-Asked when the money will surgency.

materialise, Mr. Azami shrugged and said: "Ask the Iranians." Western and Arab govern-ments often accuse Iran of trying to export its revolution in the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia by providing money, weapons and military training to

groups like Hamas. But with \$30 billion in shortterm debt and a budget deficit projected at \$14 billion, Western and Middle Eastern diplomats interviewed this week said Tehran's reach may exceed its

"Our hands are not long enough to reach everywhere," the Iranian leader, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said in a sermon Friday, referring to Iran's inability to stop fighting among Muslims in places like Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The fund for Al Azami has not come through because Hamas refuses to provide Tehran with an accounting of its membership and activities, according to a Middle Eastern diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity. Despite mounting internal

problems, Iran is obsessed with being the centre of the Islamic World, and diplomats believe Islamic agitaoon in neighbouring countries is emanating from Iran. Iran is believed to have sent up to 400 cadres to each of the

former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan to spread the Islamic revolution, the diplomats said. Neither effort was particularly

Khamenei, boasted in November that Iran was activating underground cells around the globe for "third world war" against the But other Iranian officials, and

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a

senior aide to Iran's supreme

spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali

the groups themselves, deny Tehran is doing more than pro-viding moral and political support for Islamic groups abroad. 'Our ties with Iran have on

relation with the export of revolution, it's only to try to liberate our land. Our relations with any country or organisation are for that goal," said Mr. Azami, 37, an engineer who was expelled from Gaza by Israel in January In an interview in his office in a

wealthy northern suburb, he de-

clined to say what help Tehran is

providing, apart from the money he says he has not yet seen Hamas and Iran both oppose U.S.-sponsored Mideast peace In Turkey, Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said Thursday that "terrorists" arrested for murder-

ing four leading opponents of fundamentalists had claimed they were trained in Iran. Tehran de nied any involvement in the mur-Algeria, Egypt and other Arah

states also claim extremist campaigns are supported by Iran. Egypt says Iran is arming fun-

damentalists in Sudan. ported Saturday. **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO 17:30 Reves d'enfants 17:40 Les Clés de Fort Bovard 19:00 News French 19:15 Le Journal de L'histoire News in Hebrew News in Arabia

Angeles Earthquake" (Part PRAYER TIMES

...... Drama documentary

News in English
Feature film. "The Great Los

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich Tel. 814740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Amunciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel: 022,346 Church of the Annunciation Tel. Church Tel. 630851, Tel. Cathelic Churck Tcl. Armenia 771331. n Orthodox Church Tel. Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751. Amenia International Church Tel. Evangelical Latherns Church Tel-The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. #23824, 654932. Church of the Nazarene Iel. 675691.

WEATHER supplied by the Departs

It will be partly cloudy and slight rist is temperatures will take plaice. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. It Aqaba, winds will be northerly moder- ate and seas calm.
Min /May 10mm

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	resoning:	

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temperatures wi ill be northwes	cloudy and slight rise ill take platee. Winds terly moderate. In the northerly moder- t.
	Min./Max. temp.
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qaba	7 / 18
escris	0/13

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** Dr. Bassam Karadsheh Dr. Saeed Ali Dr. Yahya Ahdul Raheem 736/72 Dr. Mohammad Al Hindi ,... Firas pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy 636730 644945 637660 Yacoub pharmacy ... Shmcisani pharmac

Al Alan pharm

813141

624425

Dr. Raich Sagr 901290 **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111. 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630021
Hotel Complainu 605800
Price Complaints
Water and Service
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787113
Telephone Information
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls (110230
Central Amman Telephone
Seemen remining redeplicate

Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/3
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	
Akileh Maternity, J. Azun.	
Jahal Amman Maternity	64236
Mathas, J. Amman	
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shiricisani Hospital	66913
Shincisani Hospital University Hospital	845843
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/
Al-Muasher Hospital The Islamic, Abdali	6661 <i>27/3</i> 7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/
Italian, Al-Muhaireen	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich	<i>77</i> 5111 <i>120</i>
Army. Marka	
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100 (02)275555

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where is should always be verified.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Larmeca (RJ) . Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

	10:00 Doha, Bahrain (R
1	t0:15 Beirut (R
,	10:15 Jeddah, Agaba t R
	17:30 Brussels, Paris (R
	t7:55 London tR
	18:00 Madrid, Geneva (R
	t8:30 Athens tR
	18:45 New York, Amsterdam (R
	20:10 Ronz (R
	20:30 Frankfurt, Victora (R
	63:39 Cairo (R
	Other Flights (Terminal 2)
	(1 Et million 5)

DEPARTURE Royal Jordan (Terminal 1)	
66:15 69:15	Beirat (
11:00Tu	Rosac <i>(</i>
20:36	Albens (

21:30

)	MARKET PRICES
	Upperlower price in fils per kg.
1	Apple 700/ 500
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)	Banana (Mukasmnar) 640 / 640
)	560 / 460
)	Caudige: 140 / 400
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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Crown Prince describes region as single unit

Prince meets Japanese envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at his office Saturday Mr. Yoshiji Nogami, deputy director of the Near East and Africa Desk at the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Nogami, who was accompanied by a delegation from hsi department and the Japanese ambassador-designate to Jordan, discussed means of promoting cooperation io various fields

He also reviewed with the Crown Prince scopes of cooperation in enhancing the Middle East peace process.

Prince Hassan described the countries between Mediterranean Sea and the Arab Gulf as a single regional unit, lioked and affected unit, linked and affected by common economic, political, social, security and environment con-

Civil defence responds to **220 cases in 48 hours**

By Elia Nasrallah Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Between Thursday and Friday the Civil Defence Department (CDD) responded to 220 emergency cases, some of which were caused by the prevailing weather conditions in the

Kingdom. There were 12 deaths, 193 injuries, and 18 fires, Major Nabil Kawar, CDD Public Relations Officer, told the Jordan Times Many of the fires were the

result of mishandling of room heaters, boilers or chimneys etc. He said the CDD transported many individuals suffering from illnesses, injuries, burns, heart attacks and food poisoning to from those fires.

Major Kawar said there were at least seven cases of people stranded in lifts and others besieged by snow and floods. He said seven members of one

family perished in their singleroom house in the southern village of a Marigha. He said the family was asphyxi-

ated by carbon dioxide fumes when the home-made wooden heater they had constructed consumed all the oxygen in their unventilated room.

Last year the CDD responded

to 513 fires, many of which were caused by heaters and electrical short circuits, Major Kawar said. He said 31 citizens died and there was extensive damage to property

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth Ministry heads for Beirut talks

AMMAN (Petra) - Youth Minister Saleh Irsheidat left for Beirut Saturday heading a Jordanian delegation which will participate in the meetings of the Arab Ministers of Youth Council due to open there Sunday. The five-day meetings will involve issues aimed at promoting pan-Arab cooperation in sports and youth-related fields. The delegation accompanying Dr. Irsheidat includes Ministry of Youth Assistant Secretary General Munther Al Huneidi and Director of the Youth Minister's office Abdul Rahman Al Armouti.

Senate speaker receives outgoing Chinese envoy *

AMMAN (Petra) - Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi received Saturday at Parliament the Chinese ambassa-dor to Jordan Zhang De Liang on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom. Mr. Lawzi and the outgoing envoy discussed Jordanian-Chinese relations, particularly in parliamen-

Education Ministry meets Tunisian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — The secretaries general of the Ministry of Education, Khaled Al Arawi and Munther Al Masri, met Saturday with a visiting Tunisian educational delegation led by Al Munsef Abdul Jaleel, an advisor to the Tunisian Minister of Education. The two sides discussed the prospect of Tunisia's benefiting from Jordan's experience in developing curricula and school textbooks, as well as training teachers of Islamic education. The delegation, which arrived in Amman Thursday, on a week-long visit to Jordan, will visit the ministry's curricula department and the educational training centre, several schools in the Kingdom and the University of Jordan's Faculties of Sharia

Yarmouk president opens book exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Ali Mohafza opened Saturday at the university's Students Affairs Deanship a comprehensive Arabic book exhibition. The five-day exhibit organised by the Al Bairaq establishment and Al Manar Bookshop, included thousands of titles on various subjects.

Madaba begins health awareness campaign

MADABA (Petra) - The Madaha Social Development Department launched Monday a month-long public awareness campaign on health and social issues. The campaign, hegan in cooperation with the Jordanian Family Planning and Protection Society, includes lectures and seminars on AIDS, breast cancer, mental retardation and other issues.

3 flights diverted to Marka

35.10

AMMAN (Petra) - Adverse weather conditions in the area of Oueen Alio International Airport led to transferring three incoming flights to Amman Civil Airport in Marka. The flights, coming from Dahran, Singapore and Colombo, were the only arrivals affected Saturday by low range visibility, sources at the Civil Aviation Authority said Saturday. The airport was open to incoming flights after 11 o.m., the sources said. They said all aircraft which landed at Marka Airport returned to Queen Alia Airport later in the day to resume their flights according to

U.S. agriculture group to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A 30-member delegation representing the American Agricultural Education Foundation in California will visit Jordan by mid-February as part of a regional tour. The Uoited States Information Services (USIS) said the delegation's tour will also include Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. The delegation will hold talks with officials in these countries on issues pertaining to water rights, land reclamation, economic development and the problem of refugees.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- A Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- # Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a at Baladna Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal at Al Balga Art Gallery in Fubeis city.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States - Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Zurayk - at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jahal Amman, between the First and Second Circles - opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- * Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdet at the French Cultural Centre.

committees to hold meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary committee charged with studying appointments at ministries and government de-partments held a meeting Satur-day chaired by House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

The committee members discussed its work plans and elected Deputy Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben as its chairman and Deputy Matir Al Bustanji as rappor-

The committee was formed by the Lower House of Parliament to investigate alleged unfairness in granting government jobs. The House Judiciary Committee Saturday held a meeting chaired by Deputy Saleem Al Zu'bi to discuss the municipalities draft

The committee endorsed most of the law's articles except for three which deal with the authority of the Council of Ministers to collect and increase fees.

The Judiciary Committee also met with several experts to discuss their views on the Landlords and Tenants Law.

The Lower House Finance Committee is due to meet Sunday morning under its chairman Abdutlah Akailch. The committee is scheduled to

discuss the 1992 value added tax (VAT) draft law and the 1992 Jordanian corporation for guaranteeing exports draft law. Earlier the committee had in-

vited the ministers of Finance and Industry as well as the president of the Amman Chamber of In-dustry to attend the meeting. Also the House Education Committee will hold a meeting Monday to discuss the Teachers Association draft law and the

the education departments in various parts of the Kingdom. The House Agriculture Committee will meet Sunday to discuss a report on the agricultural situation in Jordan.

prospect of paying field visits to

Meanwhile, the Upper House of Parliament Judiciary Commit-tee met-Saturday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The committee discussed the

telecommunications draft law and another draft law on illegal acquisition of wealth. The committee will resume its discussion of the two laws Sunday

'93 aid to needy will nearly double

AMMAN (J.T.) — Last year 5,560 families were added to a list of needy families who receive monthly assistance of JD 50 per family, Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Masha-qbeh said.

The addition raised the number of poor families on the regular assistance list to 22,397. lo an interview with Al Ra'i

million were spent to aid to these families to 1992. He said the government alloca-tion for such aid in the 1993 budget was raised from JD 7 mil-

daily Dr. Mashaqbeh said JD 5.8

lion to JD 13 million. The ministry's National Aid Fund (NAF), which distributes the aid to the poor will be able to

reach a wider scope of people requiring assistance, the minister According to Dr. Mashaqheh, the Irbid governorate was the major beneficiary of 1992 finan-

cial aid, followed by the Maan The NAF also gave JD 37,097 in lump-sum financial assistance

to 493 families who had lost their income earners or faced a major tragedy, the minister said. He added that last winter, the ministry compensated 757 people

whose homes were severely damaged by snow storms. The NAF also provides soft loans to heads of needy families and college graduates who are trying to start a business to sup-

port a family, Dr. Mashaobeh He said the NAF spent JD 1.7 million in 1,277 such projects in the past year alone.

The ministry's social develop-ment activities in 1992 included 22 income-generating projects, wide-scale programme to remove beggars and homeless people from the streets and the implementation of plans designed to reform and rehabilitate juvenile delinquents, the minister said. new world order.

Parliament Bakers upset over cut in profits

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A carefully charted government drive to partly deflect the impact of an inevitable reduction and gradual climination of subsidies away from the consumer to the profit-making commercial sector has led to a dispute between the Mioistry of Supply and bakery owners over the recent increase in the prices of bread and flour.

The crux of the conflict is the complaint by the bakers that the increase in prices announced last week have narrowed their profit margin and the Ministry of Supply's rejection of this contention.

Notwithstanding its reserva-tions, Minister of Supply Moham-mad Saqqaf said, the ministry has set up a committee to study the dispute and is holding discussions with the bakers, represented by the Association of Bakery Owners in Jordan. We are open for dialogue and

are willing to listen to genuine grievances with a view to addressing them," Mr. Saggaf told the Jordan Times Saturday. The special committee, he said,

will examine the situation and will make the necessary recommendation.

AMMAN (J.T.) - Rain and

snow are due to affect Jordan

again starting Monday night with temperatures nearing O'C in most regions, the Department of

A department official told the

Jordan Times that a cold air mass

originating from the polar regions

was moving towards the eastern

Mediterranean through eastern

Europe, causing the formation of

an atmospheric depression that

The official said the new de-

pression would be accompanied by high northerly winds causing a

But there will be a gradual rise

in temperatures Sunday to 12°C during the day and a drop to

He said frost is expected in the

high and eastern regions of the

Mbeideen:

Afro-Asian

KAMPALA, Uganda (Petra) — Justice Minister Yousef Al Mbei-deen Saturday said democracy in

Jordan has become o way of life for the Jordanian people under the leadership of His Majesty

In an address at the opening of the 32nd session of the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Com-

mittee in Kampala Saturday, the

minister said the kind of demo-

cracy practiced by the Israeli occupation outhonties in Pales-

tine can in no way be defined as a

true democracy, since the living conditions of the Palestinian peo-

ple and the daily practices by

Israel against them clearly negate

"What does it mean to expell

415 Palestinian citizens from their

land and country ... to a desolate

place where they can find no food, clothing or medicine?" he

Iraq's plight, the minister said,

is a flagrant example of the injus-

tice committed by human heings

against their brethren and on the

hegemony of the super powers. The ministers also highlighted

the dangers threatening the peo-

ple of Bosnia-Herzegovina, criti-cising the inability of the world community to stop the injustices

He said the importance of con-

vening the Afro-Asian meeting

lies in the many changes sweeping

the world arena, including the

He said it became imperative

for the countries of these two

continents to meet in light of the

new world order being shaped

since they have many common

These countries' economic con-

ditions are the same, their social

goals are close, and their laws and

"Furthermore, the historical-

legislations are similar, he said.

and cultural roots of their peoples

Mr. Mbeideen said that if

meetings between the delegations

of these countries were a necessi-

ty in normal situations, they are

more so now in view of current

international changes and the

are identical," he added.

countries of Asia and Africa.

the meaning of democracy.

meetings

timely

King Hussein.

will bring rain and snow.

drop in temperatures.

around O'C at night.

Acteorology said Saturday.

According to Anis Mahmoud Hamdi Anis, treasurer of the Association of Bakery Owners,

the ministry-announced increases in the prices of bread and flour are not compatible since the bakeries have to pay more for their raw material while not getting a proportionate raise in the selling price of the finished pro-

Mr. Anis said while the price of Arabic bread was raised by 12 per cent - from 75 fils to 85 fils per kilogramme - the price of flour - "mohad" grade - went up by almost 30 per cent - from JD 42.450 to ID 54.500 per tonne.

"Logically the increases in the prices of the primary material and of the finished product should have been compatible," he said.
"The increases, as they stand now, have dramatically reduced the profits of the bakeries since they have to buy flour at a higher price while there is no proportionate increase in the selling price of bread."

Personally I helieve that the ministry made a genuine mistake while determining the increase, and we hope that our discussions with the officials would lead to a solution of the problem," he said. Mr. Saqqaf did not agree with the argument that there could

have been any "mistake." "The profits of bakeries are not determined by the prices of flour or bread, but by the total turnover," he said. "We believe that the recent increases have in fact be-



Mohammad Saqqaf

nefited the bakery owners."

Although the minister did not spell it out, the reference was to the more than 30 per cent increase in bread consumption in Jordan in the last two years.

Officials say the Jordan now consumes 600,000 tonnes of wheat every year compared with 400,000 tonnes two years ago. As such, the turnover of bakeries has gone up, leading to higher overall profits, they say.

The increase in prices of bread

was part of the government's drive to gradually eliminate state subsidies in line with recommendations made in the economic restructuring programme Jordan has agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the same time, officials have repeatedly emphasised that the higher prices for essential food supplies, and hence the move to let the bakeries cushion part of the impact of the cut in subsidies

"It is clear that the government does not want to go beyond the 10-fils increase on the price of bread that the consumer has to bear," said an economic analyst. That leaves the bakeries, which the government believes could absorb part of the cutdown in

The government has allocated JD 36 million for subsidies for stanles - wheat/flour, rice, sugar and milk powder — in its 1993 budget, down from JD 45 million spent in 1992 and JD 60 million in

The price of subsidised rice was raised by 20 fils last month. In an advertisement appearing in local papers Saturday, the Association of Bakery Owners restated its case and said it was not objecting to the slicing of subsidies — "which we have supported for a long time" - but refuses to accept lower profit margins. It appealed for the citizens' understanding of the bakers' dilemma.

Another gnevance voiced by the Association of Bakery Owners is over the working hours set by the Ministry of Supply.

mean burdening the poor with a.m. and 6 p.m. but the latest ministry decision says that we should remain open between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.," said Mr. Anis. "This represents a further decline in income for the bakeries since one extra hour of work means extra pay for the employees."

The bakers are also seeking better prices for themselves for "zero" grade flour - used to make western-style haf-sandwich bread and hamhurger bread.

"The price of zero grade flour is the same for bakeries as well as consumers," said Mr. Anis. "We believe that we, the producing sector which has a lot of expenses, should have a hetter

While the negotiations are continuing, the association said it was 'suspending' all actions to press its case until it holds a genera assembly meeting on Friday.

The association, which argues that the bakeries' profit margins were last reviewed in 1986, said it was seeking the support of the Consumer Protection Society and the Chamber of Commerce. Both institutions, it said, were aware of the "production costs and the narrow profit margins" of baker-

The association has 1,246 registered members, an additional 300 bakenes in Jordan are not registered members of the asso-

Princess Basma announces QAF's Rain, snow to hit again 3rd annual charity campaign **Monday** AMMAN (Petra) - For the third ceive financial aid, the Princess

consecutive year, the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), will carry out a a charity campaign with tens of volunteers and 5,320 girl guides from the scout move-

ment around the country. This year's campaign will begin at the start of the holy month of Ramadan, said Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, honorary chairman of QAF's board of trus-

The Princess told a press conference in Amman Saturday that the campaign will start in the Anuman region and move gradually to the other parts of the country during Ramadan to distribute food, clothing, medical aids and other in-kind and financial assistance to needy families.

In addition, some families will be granted loans to help start their own income-generating projects, and needy students with excelling records at community

She said women in rural regions will be offered tricot and sewing machines, others a num-her of sheep and goats, the handicapped will be given wheel chairs or hearing aids and furmers would receive farming equip-ment, according to the plan which will be implemented by several local committees.

The Princess said the committees are preparing lists of needy families eligible for such aid.

The campaign seeks to foster the concept of social solidarity among the members of the Jordanians society, especially during Ramadan when people are expected to give alms to the poor, Princess Basma said.

The Princess said the Grand Mufti of Jordan announced in 1978 that monies intended for the Zakat Fund could also be districolleges and universities will re- buted through QAF committees

Princess Basma holds a press conference Saturday at Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) to aumounce 3rd annual charity enumoign due to start during Ramadan. (Petra photo)

to benefit the Muslim people of

She said that same year the Council of Ministers announced that financial aid to the poor will be deducted from the income tax

Princess Basma said in 1992, during Ramadan, 30,000 families benefited from food, clothing and other assistance and 144 families received sewing and tricot machines or livestock to start

New cancer centre reports progress

task force charged with estab-lishing the Al Amal Cancer Centre in Amman Saturday reported that it raised JD 4,175,796 in cash in 1992 and work on the structure

of the centre was completed. The task force, which met at the headquarters of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Amman, said U.S. experts examined the centre and presented o report on its future needs to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who heads the national task force.

The JD 13 million cancer centre is being funded mainly by contributions from Jordanian

citizens and institutions. A statement following Saturday's meeting said the task force created a three-member committee chaired by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saced Nabulsi to advise the task force on investing the funds until the required equipment is to

AMMAN (J.T.) - A national included procedures to take possession and register vehicles and land donated to the Al Amal Centre by institutions and

> GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib told the Jordan Times that arrangements were underway with the University of Jordan to introduce a special training course for 60 nurses on scholarships, who would he employed at the centre.

He said 12 nurses ond 12 medical specialists were receiving training in cancer treatment in the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

Several members of the Lower House of Parliament recently submitted a motion to the government making it mandatory for Jordanians to pay an additional tax to help finance the cancer centre which will offer free treatment to needy patients.

According to Dr. Khatib, the centre's annual operational costs could reach JD 3 million in the

Discussions at the meeting also U.S. firm to equip port loading machines with anti-dust devices

By Issam Oadamani Special to the Jordan Times

QABA — The Jordanian Ports Corporation (JPC) has signed a contract with the U.S. firm Middle East International Incorporated Systems to fit special equipment al the port to reduce the phosphate dust fall-out which has been polluling the port area.

Most of Jordan's phosphate is mined in the south near Maan and transported by train to the Aqaba for export via cargo ves-

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) last month reported that it exported 4.3 million tonnes of phosphate to 21 countries, registering an increase of 200,000 tonnes over 1991 figures.

Company Director General Thabet Al Taher said most of the exports went to countries in Asia, and for the first time to Australia and New Zealand.

The loading of phosphate on board the vessels has been contaminating the port area, according to JPC Director Dureid Mahasneh who signed the agreement with the U.S. firm.

Dr. Mahasneh told the Jordan Times that the agreement concluded in the past week is worth JD 500,000 earmarked from the JPC's 1993 budget dedicated to controlling pollution at the port. The U.S. firm is expected to fit

special equipment on the machines which load the phosphate onto the vessels and complete the project by July, Dr. Mahasneh said.

He said the corporation had allocated JD 1.5 million for the purchase of new equipment to control pollution in the sea, in addition to JD 800,000 for the purchase of equipment to help dispose of phosphate dust that might reach the port area during the loading process.

their own businesses.

(Continued from page 1)

Lance Corporal Raymond Mar-molejo. "No incidents yet, but most of the people are fighting and they're getting pretty close to where we're ot. They're oll over." U.S. forces walk a thin line in

Somali, trying to use restraint while facing potential violence. Tension has been growing beween the Somalis and the American forces that arrived Dec. 9 to safeguard the delivery of food to starving thousands.

Mannes face snipers and looters and random violence, in addition to clan worfare. Two Marines have died. The Mannes have killed several Somalis, including a 13-year-old boy whom they said appeared to threaten them Thursday, even though no weapon was found.

As the clans fought, a political committee working under U.S. envoy Robet Oakley was trying to negotiate a settlement between the two mojor clon factions, committee members urged the clans to return to their homes

One of the clans is loyal to warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who controls north Mogadishu. The other is a follower of General Mohammad Farrah Aideed, who controls south Mogadishu. The sporadic fighting broke out Friday after Ali Mahdi people

had tried to releaim their homes, now occupied by squatters, in the contested area that divides the feuding factions. The Aideed clan resisted

Mr. Ali Mahdi visited his clan Saturday and implored them, 'Go back to your homes. We need peace." A U.S. Morine spokesman, LI. Col. Ron Stokes, said six Somalis

had been shot in Friday's clan fighting. As word erroneously spread that the Marines had killed the Somalis, a crowd of up to 200 gathered in the Mogadishu port area and began hurling rocks at the Marines in the biggest anti-American demonstration since U.S. forces arrived in

Somalia. A U.S. counterintelligence team and senior Marine officers met with elders during Friday's fighting in efforts to resolve the issue. Mr. Ali Mahdi's people withdrew and agreed to meet peacefully Saturday with the rival clan. But instead fighting broke

Col. Lesnowicz said his mission

Somali clans clash in Mogadishu kind of criminal activity that interrupts our ability to feed and

provide humanitarian relicf." "It's part of maintaining the order here," he said. "We can't provide humanitarian relief if the clan war starts again. Part of that humanitarian relief support is to make sure the clans don't begin

fighting again." Despite the fighting, 10 relief agencies under the ouspices of Care began for the first time a coordinated distribution of dry food such as wheat to feed for three months 175,000 needy and displaced Somalis in Mogadishu.

The first convoys that went out Saturday were escorted by troops from international military forces to prevent any hijacking. The distribution sites where the wheat was unloaded were heavily guarded by Somali national police to prevent any food nots. A Somalia militia leader held talks with U.S. officers and diplomats Saturday ofter disobeying an

in a defined area. The U.S. military command said Gen. Mohammad Said Hersi, known as Gen. Morgan, the son-in-law of former dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, was io the southern port of Kismayu Saturday morning for a meeting he had requested with the Amer-

order to park bis beavy weapons

U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi earlier told reporters the U.S.-led task force had ordered Gen. Morgan to move his forces to a recognised cantonment area by 3 p.m. on Friday.

"At 2000 (8 p.m.) he had not moved. We have no further information but you recall what happened before," Mr. Mawlawi American commanders have

twice in the past 12 days used Cobra helicopter gunships to destroy Gcn. Morgan's heavily armed trucks which disobyed orders. The U.S. spokesman did not mention the deadline and it was

not immediately clear whether Gen. Morgan had moved his forces before meeting the Amer-

Gen. Morgan has been the stubbornest of Somalia's militia leaders in resisting the orders of the multinational force.

Most of Somali's other warlords have placed heavy weapons in areas agreed with the 23-nation task force, although large stocks was to make sure the streets are of hidden arms and ammunition free from guns and bandits, "the are still discovered almost daily.



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Tour could bear fruit

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's decision to dispatch Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East this month suggests that the Arab-Israeli conflict is indeed receiving a high-priority considerations by Washington. Christopher's trip to Israel and some Arab countries in the region beginning Feb. 17, being his first foreign mission, is obviously necessitated by the threat posed to the already fragile peace process through Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians in December. It goes without saying that without using Washington's good offices, the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties would grind to a halt over the expulsions.

To be sure, it is not only due to Israel's illegal act against the alleged Hamas activists that the entire peace process has been put on the line. It is also the snail pace of the talks themselves and Israel's stubborn refusal to deal with the legitimate leadership of the Palestinians and its core demands that is playing havoc with the future of the negotiations. Furthermore, the cycle of violence in the occupied territories is at a new and dangerous pitch, and this alone could prevent the negotiators from going back to the table or register any progress if they do.

Clinton appears to be pressing hard to defuse the new conflict over the expulsions, but he did not do enough to broker and endorse the so-called compromise offer by Israel. There are reasons to believe that the phased return of the expellees, as offered by Israel, will not stop at the first hundred Palestinians but will further pick up momentum later. No doubt the decision to delay the resumption of the bilateral and multilateral peace talks has this point in mind. But between now and mid-April, when the peace talks rould start again, many things could happen on the expellee front as well as on other fronts, thus making the climate for the next round of peace talks more promising. As a matter of fact, the intermittent interruption of the negotiations could be put to useful purpose since this would offer the two sides ample time to reflect more on the future and weigh the options available to them.

This is why perhaps Clinton's decision to send his secretary of state to the area has a reassuring tone besides that of making it felt that the new administration is at least as keen as the previous administration to promote peace in the Middle East. Who knows, but the U.S. president and his team may still have pleasant surprises for the parties involved by applying full weight to the process till it comes to fruition. If it is accepted that the previous Democratic administration of Jimmy Carter was the one that made peace possible between Israel and EgypI, it can likewise be possible that the new Democratic administration of Bill Clinton may still be the one which will finish the job of extending peace to the whole area.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS clear to many observers that the U.S. secretary of state's coming visit to the Middle East is aimed at further strengthening Washington's hand over the peace process and the role of the American administration in handling the Arab-Israeli confict. said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. In principle, one can deny this role and no one can deny the important role of the Russians and the Europeans in efforts towards peace and there must be a coordinated effort on the part of these powers to help bring about peace in the region. Therefore, it goes without saying that Washington single handed dealing with the conflict can by no means attain the aspired peace between the Arabs and Israel, especially in view of the U.S. stand vis-a-vis U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 in which Washington openly sided with Israel, said the daity. The paper said that Washington's attitude towards the question of the expellees has no doubl harmed its credibility and reduced its chances of over reaching a settlement acceptable to the Arabs and the Israelis atike. Washington will be wrong to assume that pressure exercised on the Arab leaders during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit can bring about capitulation on the part of the Arab countries and subjugation to the U.S.-Israeli will. The Arabs view the aspired peace as one which can help the Palestinians attain their legitimate rights in their own homeland, said the daily. The paper said that Washington is in need of regaining its credibility in order to win over the confidence of the Arah parties in the peace process; it said that the first step towards attaining this goal is through objective and fair handling of Resolution 799.

BY REFUSING to return to their homeland the way Israel wants, the deported Palestinians have placed the whole question back in Israel's lap, said Sawt Al Shaah daily Saturday. The paper said that the deported men demand immediate and full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which guarantees their repatriation allogether and not piecemeal. For this reason, we believe that the couragenus stand on the part of the expelless is bound to make the U.S. secretary of state's coming mission to the region a total failure. The secretary of state wants to pave the ground for the resumption of the peace negotiations, but this can by no means happen as long as Israel defies the U.N. resolutions and refuses to return the deported Palestinians, the paper said. It said that although President Clinton has committed his administration to pursuing the peace efforts, nothing can be done without the repatriation of the deported men. The paper urged Arab states involved in the peace talks to have one stand and convey their joint views to the U.S. secretary of state during his coming visit. It said these countries should refuse to go to the peace talks, refuse the Israeli plan for repatriation and demand that only when Israel is committed to implementing all U.N. resolutions can the talks resume.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Points of disagreement over sales tax

The general impression is that the private sector, mainly traders and industrialists, harbours major objections against the sales tax draft law. Reporters told us that a major dispute over the law is brewing in the chamber of commerce, the chamber of industry, and the Ministry of Finance. We venture the claim that this is not so, even though the leaders of traders and industrialists went on record last week as objecting to the law.

The fact is that the draft law was thoroughly discussed by working committees, including representatives of the three parties concerned. The Ministry of Fioance was accomodatiog and amended the draft to satisfy all the complaints of both parties as evidenced by the final minutes of the meetings signed by the

The disagreement was narrowed to three points only. When agreement over these three points seemed difficult, it was agreed to leave them to the Finance Committee of the Parliament which is a qualified arbitrator to determine what serves best the public

The first point of disagreement was over the transition from the first stage of the law — "Sales tax" — to the second stage — "Value added tax". The Ministry of Finance thought that this should be left to the Council of Ministers to decide, but both the traders and the industrialists thought that it should not happen without a new law, to be enacted by the Parliament. We expect the Finance Committee to side with the private sector on this major step and not an urgent one. Leaving this step to the long process of law-making is a reasonable safeguard against a basty decision that may suddenly be taken by the Council of Ministers.

The second point of disagreement was over the lists of commodities applicable to each rate of tax, namely 10 per cent, 20 per cent, zero, and excise. The private sector wanted these lists to be an integral part of the law, while the ministry insisted on leaving the lists to the discretion of the Council of Ministers. We expect the Finance Committee to side with the ministry's view point, because those lists must remain flexible. Errors revealed by actual application must be easily addressed and the lists must remain subject to amendments from time to time to respond to changing circumstances. It is not practical to go through the long process of enacting a law each time a commodity has to be added or deleted from any particular list, or the definition of a given commodity has to be clarified or altered. After all, the more important lists of the imports customs duty are left to the Council of Ministers. What is applicable to the customs tax lists should be applicable to the sales tax lists.

The third point of disagreement was whether the sales tax on imported commodities should be applied to the cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value before adding the customs duty, as the traders asked, or the full cost after adding the customs tax plus an estimated importer's mark up of 10 to 25 per cent, as the

industrialists demanded because the value of the domestic commodity ex-factory includes the element of profit of the

The protection of local industry will be best served by adopting the industrialists' extreme point of view. However, since the consumption tax was previously imposed on the CIF value only, i.e., before adding the customs, we think that the Finance Committee will take the middle road of adding the customs tax component, but not the profits, especially as the importer's profits

vary, and in certain cases, may not exist.

The imposition of the sales tax is part of the economic adjustment programme, agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The government originally committed itself to the implemention of the tax as of Jan. 1, 1993, but was unable to do it; the deadline was thus extended to April 1, 1993 and there is no reason why the Parliament may fail to issue the law

The sales tax will replace the consumption tax. It is substantially a neutral tax which will not result in more revenue. It will definitely influence the prices of many commodites, but the overall cost of living should not be affected. The subjection of more commodities and of certain services to the sales tax will be offset by a reduction in the rate applicable to other commodities. Basic food items, babies' and students' requirements will be

Deportations — an imperative in the Zionist design

By Michael Adams

nians has been condemned with rare unanimity by the international community. Yet this, far from being an isolated or unique incident, should rather be seen as markin; a stage in a process that has been going on for more than 40 years. What was unusual about this incident was the amount of publicity it received. This, and the brutal circumstances in which the expulsion was carried out, strengthened the hand of those who argue that the dispossession and dispersion of the indigenous people of Palestine was a deliberate, even inevitable accompaniment to the birth of Israel.

Several recent studies coming out of Israel bave pointed to-wards this conclusion. Five years ago in The Birth of Israel: Myths and Realities, the Israeli historian Simba Flapan challenged several of his countrymen's cherished assumptions. Among them was the belief, widely held outside as well as inside Israel, that when the Jewish state was established in Palestine in 1948, the Palestinians who left their homes and went into exile did so of their own free will or in obedience to orders from Arab politicians. Nonsense, said Flapan, who insisted that while some people with means were able to evacuate their families from areas threatened by the fighting, "hundreds of thousands others, intimidated and terrorised, fled in panic, and still others were driven out by the Jewish army, which, under the leadership of Ben Gurion, planned and executed the expulsion in the wake of the U.N. Partition

"Ethnic cleansing"

In other words, what Chaim Weitzmann described as "a miraculous simplification of Israel's tasks" was not a miracle at all, but a determined exercise in what is nowadays called "ethnic cleansing". And this version of events was confirmed by another Israeli historian in a book published within months of Simha Flapan's. This was The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-49 by Benny Morris, which drew on previously unpublished Israeli sources to show that the great majority of the refugees who left Palestine before and during the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948 were intimidated into going or simply expelled by the organised forces of the infant state of Israel. After describing in detail how

Israel's expulsion of 400 Palesti- the Palestinians were driven out of one village after another, Mr. Morris gave careful thought to the question of wbether or not the expulsions had been carried out as part of a prearranged plan. and came to what seemed a surprising conclusion: that although individual commanders in different sectors had acted more or less identically, driving out the Palestinians and then blowing up their villages to prevent their return, there was no central plan and each was acting on his own initiative, without orders from above. And this is where Nur Masalha, the Israeli Palestinian author of Expulsion of the Palestinians, comes in. For his thesis, reinforced by some remarkable evidence from declassified Zionist archives, is that from the outset the most influential figures in the Zionist movement realised that their objective of establishing a Jewish state in a territory already inhabited by a settled Arab community could

> At first the idea was put forward of buying them out; but the that there were severe limits to what they could achieve in this way. The Zionist idea of Palestine as "a land without people for a people without land" was a fiction; the reality was that most of Palestine was inhabited by an indigenous population which was deeply

only be achieved if the Arabs

could in one way or another be

induced to leave Palestine, and

that they acted accordingly.

attached to the land. The conclusion was inescapable: other means had to be found and if necessary the Palestinians would

have to be dislodged by force. This was too delicate a subject to discuss openly, but the evidence which Dr. Masalha has uncovered from Zionist archive material and private memoirs of the period shows that the Zionist, however differently they express-ed themselves to the outside world, were startlingly frank in talking among themselves. Not that they used the word "expulsion" even to each other, preferring the euphemism "transfer"; but it was well understood what was intended. For instance on July 12, 1937, David Ben Gurion confided to his diary:

"The compulsory transfer of the Arabs from the valleys of the proposed Jewish state could give us something which we never had...We must uproot from our hearts the assumption that the thing is not possible. It can be

Ben Gurion hoped at first to get the British to do the job for him, but there were obvious problems: "I see ab

difficulties in uprooting by fore-ign force some 100,000 (Palestinian) Arabs from the villages they have inhabited for hundreds

But the more he thought about it, the surer he became that by one means or another "the thing"

had to be done: On Oct. 5, 1937. he wrote to his son with unusual frankness:

We must expel Arabs and take their places...and if we have to use force - not to dispossess the Arabs of the Negev and Transjordan, but to guarantee our own right to settle in those places — then we have force at our disposal."

"Transfer" the answer

In November 1936 the British overnment had sent out the Peel commission to investigate the causes of unrest in Palestine and the Commission's report, published in July 1937, advanced for the first time the idea of partition. This presented the Zionists with a problem: they had no wish to share Palestine, but a state embracing the whole of Palestine would have to accommodate large numbers of Arabs...unless of course the Arabs of Palestine could be "transferred" to somewhere else. To tackle this prob-lem, the Jewish Agency formed in November 1937 a special committee with the unambiguous title of the Population Transfer Committee. From 1937 onwards partition and transfer were closely linked in Zionist thinking.

In 1937, after strenuous efforts to promote Jewish immigration, Jews numbered just 30 per cent of the population of Palesline. Looked at dispassionately (and Dr. Masalha is careful to maintain a scholarly detachment) it seems scarcely credible that an immigrant minority should bave aspired to take over the territory of Palestine and deport its indige-nous population. Yet the sources quoted here clearly show that this was indeed the intention of those who guided Israel to statehood in 1948. Besides the deliberations of the Jewish Agency executive and subsequently of the first Israeli cabinet under David Ben Gurion, the most revealing source is the diary of Yosef Weitz, the moving spirit in the Populatioo Transfer Committee, who had made up his mind as early as December 1940

'(A)mong ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both peoples in this country...The only way is to transfer the Arabs from here to neighbouring countries. Not a single village or a single tribe must be

Weitz pursued his objective single-mindedly, lobbying all the important figures in the pre-state

Zionist establishment. When the "transfers" were being carried out in 1948, be made it his business to see that, as the inhabitants of each village were expelled, the village itself was destroyed to prevent the possibility that they might one day return. Watching one such demolition, he noted with surprise that he felt un-moved by the sight: "No regret and no hatred, as this is the way of the world."

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Dr. Masalha's book will excite controversy, not because his conclusions can be challenged - the sources leave no doubt about the facts — but because the book exposes io detail the nature of the Zionist design and the means by # which it was achieved. This is an important and scrupulous piece of revisionist history. It is also a text which should be studied by those who are still trying, against all the odds, to put an end to the tragedy of which Palestine and the Palestinians have been the victims for half a century - Midde East International.

LETTERS

Only 'two-ways' about it

The following letter, signed by several Jordanians, was sent to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Feb. 3, 1993.

We wish to express our dismay at your endorsement of Israel's latest proposal to permit the return to their homeland of 100 of the 396 remaining Palestinians it illegally expelled. The willingness to support Israel's continued evasion of its responsibility to fulfill the dictates of Security Council Resolution 799, on the grounds that it has made a gesture of compromise, puts political expedience before the rule of law, not to mention the bumanitarian and moral imperatives that it ignores. The endorsement does neither yon nor the Clinton administration any credit.

There has been no ambiguity about the illegality of the Israeli government's act of expulsion in the first place. The United States recognised that in voting for the unconditional return of the expellees. The action does not even accord with Israeli law, such as it is for Palestinians, since the expellees were not accorded the right of trial for any crime before the internationally condemned punishment was meted out. The subsequent offer to permit each expellee an appeal before a military tribunal, not against their lawfully administered conviction but against Israel's imposition of an illegal punishment, as well as the acknowledgement of a mistake made in the case of nine expellees, has already made a travesty of law. A lawyer should find it even more compellingly offensive to have this travesty continued with the politically expedient suggestion to return some arbitrary number, substantial in appearance but significantly less than the demand that justice makes for the return of all.

Ironically, the proposal admits the illegality of the original expulsions. The Israeli government has not acknowledged that it made another mistake affecting 100 of the expellees. Therefore, it must be assumed that a number was arbitrarily selected to satisfy political expedience and, hopefully, to assist the United States in forestalling further action by the Security Council against Israel, while clearing the way for peace negotiations to continue. The gesture is cynical, one to which regrettably the United States is

making itself a party.

The United States, though it tried, was unable to persuade the world that the injustice of the expulsions should be kept separate from the peace process. It is not a good omen for peace if the U.S. is then prepared to pursue the travesty of law even further by supporting the Israeli proposal.

Your mere insistence that the proposal is a step towards conforming to the requirements set by Resolution 799 does not make it so. That is, at best, the arrogance of power talking; and the shame of it is that a decent and dignified gentleman by all public accounts must be the one to express it. Not even the Israelis accept the interpretation. Rabin all but used the language of "political deal" in describing the proposal as an agreement

between Israel and the United States. You underestimate the intelligence of world public opinion in general and Arab public opinion in particular if you imagine that the cynicism of the agreement and your defense of it escapes

President Clinton said recently that President Saddam Hussein would be judged by his behaviour. That is a fair standard. The same standard, one single standard, may be applied as justly to the mighty as to the weak, the arrogance of power notwithstand-

Whatever else the power and the will of the United States may eventually impose on the world in this matter, the only legal, moral and dignified choices are to immediately require full adherence to Resolution 799 by Israel or sanctions against it. We are confident that world public opinion in general and Arab public opinion in particular share this view.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused



Yugoslav diplomacy takes offensive prior to U.N. debate

By Jovan Kovacic Reuter

BELGRADE — Yugoslavia mounted a diplomatic drive apparently aimed at improving its tarnished image in the run-up to last week's U.N. debate on Bosnia by seeking to portray itself as victim rather than aggressor.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Alija Djukic sent the United Nations Security Council a letter Wednesday listing what he said were daily Bosnian Muslim and Croat attacks against Yugoslavia.

"The goal of these attacks is to draw Yugoslavia at any cost into the civil and religious war in Bosnia, or a military conflict against Croatia, so that it would continue being blamed for the crisis," he said. It was the fifth letter to the

Security Council from Yugoslav political leaders in as many days. The drive to show Yugoslavia's restraint and put the blame on other sides was mounted after the West gave several signs that were interpreted in Belgrade as indicating its time of ostracism may be nearing the end," a senior

The international community last year turned Yugoslavia into an international pariah by suspending it from major world bodies. including the U.N. General Assembly and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and imposed stiff economic sanctions for its role in the Bosnian war.

The Serbs feel they have been unfairly singled out as the main aggressors in the conflicts that followed the violent break-up of former Yugoslavia.

"The aim of the diplomatic drive is also to dissuade new U.S. President Bill Clinton from military intervention in Bosnia," the diplomat said. International mediators Lord

Owen and Cyrus Vance have shifted talks on ending the Bosnian war from Geneva to New York in the hope that the Security Council and the United States will support their peace propos-

But they have still to persuade a reluctant new U.S. administration to back their plan after Washington raised several

objections particularly regarding maps of post-war Bosnia

Diplomats said an indication that the West may be shifting its stance on Yugoslavia was an invitation by international mediators to Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic to attend the Geneva peace talks.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen

hailed him as instrumental in bringing peace in Croatia a year ago, ignoring former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eaglehurger's depiction of him as a war criminal.

Croatia's incursion into the Serb-held Krajina enclave two weeks ago, a diplomatic windfall for the Serbian president, was seized on by the Serb media as a snub to U.N. peace efforts.

Belgrade and the powerful Yugoslav army were quick to declare they did not want to interfere in Krajina, while warnmg that their restraint was limited and it was up to the West to keep Croatia in check.

"Belgrade feels a change in the wind from the West and it is utilising it to the hilt," a source close to Serb authorities told

The diplomatic offensive also gives the Serbian leader the opportunity to consolidate politically Serbia's military gains in the civil war.

But his most urgent need, according to political analysts, is to bring an end to U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia which are causing increasing disruption in the rump state and threaten to spark social unrest.

"All that has been gained on the ground against the Croats and the Muslims could easily evaporate from within Serbia if sanctions are not lifted soon," one analyst said.

Strikes by transport and communal workers in Belgrade have raised tension as thousands of commuters, most of them working for the equivalent of only \$32 a month, were forced to walk to work in freezing temperatures.

As runaway inflation rips earning power to shreds, more strikes are threatened and economists warned the government to tread carefully to avoid the threat of

مكذا عن الأمل

U.S.: Timing for Mideast peace talks to be announced soon

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. Slate Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday a decision on the timing for the next rounds of Middle East peace talks - both at the bilateral and multilateral levels can be expected fairly soon.

The co-sponsors, of the peace process, the United States and Russia, are currently consulting on dates, Mr. Boucher said, "and we would expect to have a decision fairly soon on the timing for the next rounds for those talks."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has talked by telephone with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev about dates for both bilateral and multilateral talks, a senior U.S. official told reporters later.

"We think it's time to refocus attention on the important work of the peace talks," the spokes-man told reporters. "In our exchanges, generally I'd say that we're finding broad acknowledgement of the importance of avoiding counter-productive con-frontations at the United Nations and of the need to advance the Middle East peace talks.

We think that the members of the international community should not permit extremists who are determined to destroy chances for peace to exploit this

without a solution to the (expel-

"Christopher is coming to con-

vince Arab states to go to the

peace talks. But I am surprised at how America ignores Resolution

799 and yet wants the Arabs to

trust its credibility," Dr. Rantisi

The evictees received smuggled

bread, vegetables and canned

food from villagers overnight.

They took advantage of the sun-shine to wash clothes.

They refused to accept a list of

driver tried to deliver to the camp

Friday but listened eagerly to Israel Radio broadcasts of the

collective like our (expulsion) was collective," said Sheikh Hamed Al Bitawi, speaker of Al

Agsa Mosque in Jerusalem, who

heard bis name on Israel Radio.

back as soon as possible," be

back the Palestinians it expelled.

to Resolution 799 "we would

of the (United Nations) Char-

from them and we think it is a

He said that Mr. Arafat's visit

was "the first time we heard from

them such clear words ... now

they loudly say it to us so clearly

and you cannot have more than

The moderated policy was ex-

pressed both by President Sad-

dam and by other Iraqi officials in

the president's presence, Mr.

speaking about the liberation of total Palestine and this is the

theory of the (ruling) Baath Par-

ty." But now, he said, Iraq is

Historically, he said. Iraq was

one explanation.

Abmad said.

The United Nations should

He said the offer was a bid to

We want our return to be

Al Rantisi, leader of the 396.

Arafat asks Egypt to help evictee return

(Continued from page 1)

lees') problem," said Abdul Aziz ited Nations should allow Israel

outsiders.

issue for their own purposes," Mr. Boucher declared.

The bilateral phase of the peace process involves direct talks between Israel and its immediate Arab neighbours and negotiations between Israeli

The eighth round of those talks concluded in Washington in mid-

Five specific working groups are involved in the broader multi-lateral phase of the peace talks. ing group would meet in Rome Feb. 9-10; the water working group would meet in Geneva Feb. 16-18; and the refugee working group would meet in Oslo Feb. 16-18. The arms control and regional security working group was scheduled to meet in Washington during February and February. Those tentative sessions may bave to be rescheduled later because the U.S. and Rus-

Asked how much time the Uu-

to reverse the expulsion orders he

said: "The matter needs some

time. But 'some time' means

issue of 400 Palestinians deported by Israel in December has been resolved through a series of measures announced earlier this week by the Israeli government, Mr.

"We believe that the Israeli

"This proposal, by the Israeli government, resolves the prob-lem," Mr. Boucher said, pointing out that it "not only allows a significant number of the deportees to return immediately but it sets up a process of cutting sentences in balf so that they will all be back by the end of the year. It sets a process of review so that there's a prospect of some being process so these people can get

Israel bas said 100 deportees could return home immediately and the remainder will be allowed to return by the end of this year through a combination of sentence reductions and reviews.

Mr. Christopher conferred with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in advance of the Israeli moves. "We obviously participated in discussions with them about this issue," Mr. Boucher said. "In the end, it's their proposal and we support it."

The spokesman acknowledged he had seen news reports that the deportees themselves have rejected the Israel repatriation plan. "I would say generally that we are in touch oorselves with Arah governments, with Palesti-nians in the Middle East and with many others throughout the world," he said.

been in touch with various Palestinians about the issue of the deportees, but that's about as far as I can go," Mr. Boucher said.

"Over time, certainly we've

"In our exchanges," he said,
"we're finding broad acknowledgement of the importance of avoiding counter-productive con-frontations at the United Nations and of the need to advance the Middle East peace talks. "We think that the members of

the international community should not permit extremists who are determined to destroy chances for peace to exploit this issue for their own purposes. And

that's the point that we're mak- pied territories ing." Mr. Boucher told reporters. He emphasised that U.S. con-

tacts with Palestinians did not with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "We don't talk to the PLO, period," Mr. Boucher declared. "We're talking to the Palestinians that we've always talked to."

The spokesman pointed out that no draft resolution has been tabled at the United Nations calling for sanctions against Israel for not immediately returning all the deportees.
"We do think it's time for

everybody to look ahead," Mr. Boucher said. "And we've stated our view clearly on organisations that one way or the other, through violence or otherwise, have tried to disrupt the peace process. White House Communications

Director George Stephanopoulos differed with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the compromise involving Palestinians deported to southern Lebanon from territory occupied by

According to news reports, Dr. Ghali asserted the compromise is not responsive to Security Council Resolution 799, which called on Israel to allow the return of the deportees to Israel or occu-

"We believe this is a significant step," Mr. Stephanopoulos said of the compromise," and we bemean a resumption of a dialogue lieve it is generally consistent with the Palestine Liberation with Resolution 799. We would just urge all parties to move forward on the overall peace process. We want to re-invigorate that peace process."

Asked if Washington would seek to convince Israel to accept return of all 400 deportees - not just the 100 designated in the plan announced last week — Mr. Stephanopoulos answered, "We want to do everything we can right now to get the overall peace process re-invigorated and started up again." As to whether that means convincing the Arah side to participate, he said, "We're going to continue to talk to all sides and do what we can do to get the process started."

Mr. Stephanopoulos defended the compromise, saying it "sets up a process for all the deportees be returned, by December." He said Washington wants to "resolve the situation" and get the peace talks resumed "as soon as possible." Asked if Clinton is willing to wait until January, when all deportees will have been returned, he reiterated, "We want to get the process started

Peace process is top priority, Hamilton says

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Res- Middle East," he said, tarting the Middle East peace "There must be no doubt at man, said Feb. 3.

Other priorities include U.S. thought.' policy on Iraq, the arms buildup in the region, human rights and democracy in certain states in the democracy, and the rise of Isla-mic fundamentalism. Hamilton States must support this trend by said in an interview with USIA. encouraging newly forming par-Hamilton, a Democral from Indi- liaments and the extention of ana, is also the chairman of the voting rights. House subcommirtee on Europe and the Middle East.

the coming year, Hamilton said.

Working to restart the Middle East peace talks "is the highest priority in the Middle East, on American foreign policy, is not the national agenda and is for the sum and substance of Amercommittee as well," Mr. Hamil-The United States must not

only work to get the process that we have as well," he said. restarted, but also work "to push it toward a consideration of more substantive problems and perhaps even an agreement," he

To that end, the United States must take a more direct role in the process, he said. The parties to the peace talks "will not agree by themselves. There will have to be an active role for the United

Exactly what form this role should take is a "big policy question" the Congress and Clinton administration must tackle, Mr. Hamilton said. "It is a delicate role.... We must be a catalyst and a facilitator without being too

intrusive," be said. On Iraq, Mr. Hamilton said the committee will focus its artention on Iraqi compliance with United Nations resolutions. Hamilton has recently spoken out forcefully against Iraqi violations of the

no-fly zone over southern Iraq.
The committee will also look into the buildup of arms in the Middle East, he said. Mr. Hamilton has expressed his concern over U.S. arms sales and stability in the region.

recent past. But there will still be year. some and we will pay artention to arms sales."

However, he does "hope that we begin sometime during this

and human rights is a priority of foreign aid programme." When the Clinton administration's fore- and if that reform takes place, ign policy, an issue the committee depends in large part on the will also address, Mr. Hamilton Clinton administration, he

said.
"The committee will have an interest...in the progress towards between the Congress and the more accountability, more demo- Clinton administration on foreign cracy, more pluralism, more re-policy, Mr. Hamilton said he

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talks is the highest priority on the any time where the United States agenda of Middle East issues for stands with respect to all of these the House of Representatives' things," he stressed. "We have to Foreign Affairs Committee. Lee push for institutions of accounta-Hamilton, the committee's chair- bility, for freedom of travel, freedom of the press and freedom of

Noting the movement towards

While pursuing this policy. however, the United States will The Foreign Affairs Commit"work toward what is achievable tee will conduct public hearings, and what is feasible," Hantilton hold private discussions with said. U.S. policy regarding huadministration officials and foreman rights and democracy must ign visitors and consider legisla-tion on these issues throughout internal situation as well as U.S. interests, he said.

"Human rights and democracy, though a very important part of ican foreign policy. It is not the totality of it. And so we have to take into account other interests

Mr. Hamilton said there is a need in the West for a better understanding of the rise of Islamie fundamentalism in the region. To that end, this issue will be addressed by the committee in the coming year, he noted.

Commenting on the complexity
of the issue, Mr. Hamilton said

Islamic fundamentalism "plays out differently in different countries. It does threaten some of the regimes in the Middle East; it does not threaten others."

"It is hard to get your hands around it," he said. "We will just have to understand it hetter and see how it plays out."
Iran's support for Islamic fun-

damentalist groups in the region and terrorism continues to stand in the way of improving U.S.-Iranian relations, Mr. Hamilton "I don't think that we will see

too much change in the short term in the relationship with Iran," he said. "So long as those problems remain I think it's going to be very difficult to devise a policy for Iran which improves relations."

While long a supporter of re-vamping the U.S. foreign assist-Commenting on U.S. arms vamping the U.S. foreign assistsales, be said: "I don't expect ance programmes, Mr. Hamilton there to he as many arms sales in said no dramatic changes will 1993 as there have been in the take place in that programme this

The promotion of democracy year with an effort to reform the added.

Asked about the relationship spect for human rights in the expects it will be a good one.

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Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and Palestinian representatives.

December.

In early December at the conclusion of a meeting of the multi-lateral steering group in London, it was tentatively are the economic development workthe environment working group was to meet in Tokyo during sian co-sponsors bave not yet sent out oral invitations to the participants, U.S. officials said.

The United States believes the

proposal does represent a breakthrough in effort to resolve this difficult issue," the spokesman said. "Our position bas been made very clear," he said. "We think that the steps being taken are indeed consistent with (U.N.) Resolution 799," which called on Israel to allow the return of the deportees to Israel or the occupied territories.

returned sooner, and it sets up a the relief and assistance they

caters to the needy

By Cosima Hadidi

days, not weeks or months."
In Wasbington, Canadian
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney,
in a strong show of snpport, said Friday that Israel should be permitted to make its own "security". decisions without coaching from "My own view is that we tend

not to try and give Israel lessons in regard to the determinations it the IOI who could return which a has to make about its own oational security," Mr. Mulroney said after a meeting with President Bill Clinton at the White House. Israel is entitled to make some important value judgments about itself," be said at a joint news conference. Mr. Clinton addressed other

subjects and was not asked about the dispute over the expulsions. Mr. Mulroney said he bad considestep Resolution 799. "We de-gratulated Mr.-Clinton and Mr. mand that Israel bow to the inter- Christopher for their "leadturn of 100 Palestirians. The Canadian prime minister called it "an excellent example of diapprove whatever steps are plomacy and international lead-

necessary to force Israel to take But, Mr. Mulroney said, "it's Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid was quoted not the whole answer, and it's a complicated matter, which I thick will be resolved" after Mr. as saying Saturday. He said if Israel did not submit

Christopher's trip. He said Canada supported Rehave no choice but to call for the solution 799. "But," be said. implementation of Chapter Seven "I'm always very concerned when people start to lecture Israel on the manner in which it has to look

after its own internal security."
Mr. Mulroney added: "For very important bistorical reasons, Chapter Seven allows the imposition of sanctions and the possible use of force. Israel of course is better qual-Dr. Abdul Meduid was speaking in ao interview with the ified than most to make determinations about its own well-London-based Arabic magazine Al Wasat. being."

PLO says Iraq endorses peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

starting to make their relations with the world," he said, saying that on the peace process Mr.

Arafat "found understanding laimed by Iraq, i

Mother and Child Health Centre

Special to the Jordan Times Dr. Mobammad Abdul Rahman has a busy morning: over twenty careful about cleanliness and anxious mothers, holding infants and young children, are waiting to see him at the Ministry of Health's Mother and Child Health Centre in East Amman.

scribe to him. In addition to nutrition unit and a maternal unit medical prescriptions, he also gives the mothers solid commongives the mothers solid common-sense advice. "You should re-move the diapers of your baby is also a training centre for uniregularly to expose its skin to versity and college students of fresh air and sun, and do not use health care, nutrition, nursing harsh detergents when washing and midwifery. the diapers", he tells one mother whose infant suffers from chronic four nutrition students from the

diaper rash. "Many mothers come to me gathered around Hussein Saleh, with faulty preconceived ideas the head of the nutrition unit at ment which they receive from conveying nutritional messages to relatives and neighbours. Educat- audiences of different educationing them about proper hygiene al and socio-economic levels. and health practices is one of the Mr. Saleh and his staff give major aspects of my work," he group and individual advice to says, adding that this is often a parents whose children are mal-

difficult task as many mothers are sensitive about these issues and do not like to be told to be more

sanitary practices.
The Mother and Child Health Centre is located in Wadi Srur where it serves a number of densely-populated low-income He gives each child a routine areas including two refugee check as well as a specific check camps. In addition to the child for the ailments the mothers dehealth unit, the centre has a where expectant mothers and

The morning of the interview University of Jordan were health and develop- the centre teaches them about

nourished or suffer from nutri- boys are red-cheeked, chubby tional deficiencies.

We teach people about the basic food groups and the types of prematurely and underweight, foods that provide various nut-explains Mr. Saleh, and the rients, so that they can make mother was going to bottle-feed sound nutritional choices based them since she had been told that upon their budgets and environ-ments", says Mr. Saleh.

a short-term solution, whereas nutrition helps not only the and growth, mother who learns it, but also her However, neighbours, relatives and friends whom she passes these messages on to. This creates a sound nutritional base for the whole community," he says.

The unit encourages breastfeeding as the most nutritious and tives to expensive foods, such as bealthy way to ensure development and prevent illnesses of families cannot even afford lentils infants, and monitors the growth and development of infants whose mothers bring them in for He explains that the vicious cycle

and very active. A little over a year ago, these babies were born it was not possible to breast-feed twins. However, the staff at the "Giving out samples of foods centre showed her the proper way to people who cannot afford them to breast-feed twins, encouraged is not very helpful, as this is only her to do so, and soon the growth chart of the twins reflected their knowledge about a halanced healthy and rapid development

> However, visits at the homes of some families, show nutritionists that often there are families whose economic conditions prevent them from fulfilling even the most basic nutritional needs.

"We tell them about alternalentils instead of meat, but some past few years," says Mr. Saleh. regular check ups.

A mother of twins has come of poverty, ignorance and illness is what leads to malnourishment down from Irbid to check on the and is often difficult, if not imdevelopment of her sons. The possible, for families to break.

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Iraq's declaration of a ceasefire Kashmir in the two, allied-imposed "nofly" zones also are part of Iraq's strategy, he said, adding that other overtures were expected. "If they find a positive re-sponse, they will give more," he said, declining to elaborate. "If

they find any response from the other side they will go on." Even if there is no early positive response, he said, "they can be patient longer." "Do you think he (Saddam)

The endorsement of the peace

process, although still not proc-

laimed by Iraq, is part of a series of

moves calculated to improve its

relations with the rest of the

world and convince the West that

it is pragmatic and reasonable.

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wants to quarrel with the whole world?" speaking about the territories occupied since 1967, "not histor-

Clinton starts cutting luxuries (Continued from page 1)

ty Secretary of State Clifford

At the heart of the reform is the creation of a new global affairs bureau, to be headed by former Senator Timothy Wirth, with responsibility for democracy, human rights, labour, terrorism, narcotics, international crime, population, refugees and migration, oceans, science and

the environment. Mr. Wharton said the State Department had been slow under previous administrations to address many of these issues.

The plan also creates a new post of ambassador-at-large to coordinate policy towards the former republics of the Soviet union, to be filled by former Time magazine columnist and friend of President Clinton Strobe Talbott.

The department also disclosed the names of 20 U.S. embassies and consulates which it plans to close this year and next year to offset spending on new diplomatic posts in former Soviet repub-

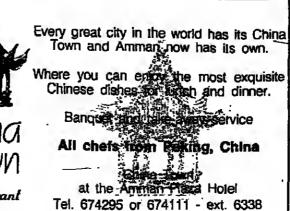
lics and Central Europe. The list includes several desireable travel destinations.

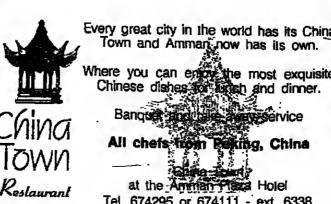


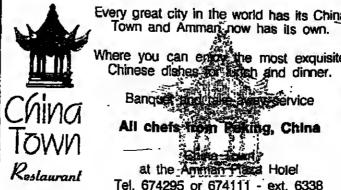


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Navratilova ousts Graf to meet Savchenko-Neiland in final

YOKOHAMA, Japan (Agencies) - Vetean Martina Navratilova clinched a dramatic victory Saturday over top seed Steffi Graf in the first semi-final of the \$750,000 Toray Pan-Pacific Open tennis tournament.

Navratilova overcame a firstset deficit to down the German 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Both players served consistently well but it was Navratilova's hammering returns. coupled with her prowess at the net. that ultimately overwhelmed the world's number two player. "She returned much better and

stronger," said a dejected Graf after the game. "I didn't get many returns in so it was difficult to set up the points.

"I made a lot of mistakes. Martina keeps running to the net all the time, forcing you to hurry your shots and then make mis-

A beaming Navratilova told reporters: "I kept going for my shots, playing with conviction and not ever backing down."

Graf got off to a good start. breaking Navratilova's serve in the first game. With powerful serving and some superb crosscourt forehand shots to take the first set 6-4, it looked as if Graf was headed for her second final

of the year.
But Navratilova broke Graf's serve in the fourth game of the second set and the fifth game of the final set with some blistering backhand cross-court returns, coupled with superb volleying at

the net.
"I returned very well," the
American said. "I think the difference today was not that I could break her serve, but that I could hold on to my own."

Graf's concentration was adversely affected in the second set when she earned a few unfavourable line calls.

"I was getting upset by all the overrules. There were too many in a row, so it was very strange. the German said.

The Czech-born Navratilova is now a step away from winning her 162nd career singles title - a feat unmatched in either men's or women's tennis.

Looking ahead to Sunday's final, Navraniova said: "It's hard to go out again after having beaten event.

though you've already won the whole tournament."

Navratilova's opponent will be unseeded Larisa Savchenko-Neiland, the world-ranked 74. who beat fourth seed and doubles partner Jana Novotna of the Czech republic 7-5 6-3.

The Ukrame-born Latvian is primarily known as an accomplished doubles player, who with Natalia Zvereva in 1991 became the first Soviet to win a Wimbledon title.

In a t0-year career, she has managed to win only one singles tournament - in St. Petersburg in 1991 — from six finals appear-

In bead-to-heads with Navratilova she trails 7-1.

Chatrier steps down as French tennis head

Philippe Chatrier, who steered tennis through controversy involving boycotts, Olympics and hot pants, steps down Saturday as president of the French Tennis Federation, ending more than 24 years of top-level involvement in

the FFT will be elected by members Sunday.

Chatrier, 65, gained wide recognition as the president of the International Tennis Federation from 1977 to 1991. He also was the president of the Men's International Pro Tennis Council from 1979 to 1985 before pro tennis was taken over by the players. Chatrier was once a player himself, reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon when he

He became a journalist and was a talented amateur singer, even fielding offers to perform in

some Parisian night clubs. However he chose to devote vice president of the FFT in 1969 and went to the presidency in

As president of the International Federation, he was an instrumental force in returning tennis to the Olympics as a medal 1t was a demonstration sport in 1984 and became a full Olympic sport in 1988. Chatrier became a member of the International Olympic Committee in 1990.

He also oversaw the inauguration of the Grand Slam Cup, which brings together the top performers from the four major tournaments. Criticised at first because of the lofty prizes - \$2 million to the winner - it is now being grudgingly accepted by the players.

During his tenure, Chartier was faced with boycotts, such as when India refused to meet South Africa in the 1974 Davis Cup

final. Tennis was one of the last sports to bar South Africa from international competition and one of the first to allow it back. In 1991 the Association of Tennis Professionals, beld the world doubles championship in Johannnesburg.

As president of the French Tennis Federation, Chatrier was in charge of the expansion of the French Open, both literally and figuratively. He oversaw enlargement of Roland Garros stadium and the surrounding complex as he sport. the clay tournament grew from a small affair to one of the major events on the French sports

One of his greatest thrills was watching France upset the United States in Lyon to win the 1991

Davis Cup. It wasn't all easy. During the 1990 French Open, be was involved in a clothing dispute with Andre Agassi, who introduced an outfit described as "the new lycra, hot-lava look" - glowing pink and black on his shirt, black was France's No. 6 ranked player denim shorts and pink cycling tights underneath.

When some members of the tennis establishment — including Chatrier — criticised the apparel. Agassi shocked them by saying These bozos will look for anyhis life to tennis. He moved to thing to talk about." He criticised Chatrier for pasting Roland Garros with sponsor's names.

The International Tennis Federation threatened fines and a crackdown on garish outfits, but only Wimbledon stays within the "predominantly white" guide-

Davis Cup

Iran leads Jordan 3-0 after winning doubles

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

clinched an early victory over Jordan in the Davis Cup Asial Ocenia Zone Group 2 first round tie when Mansour Bahrami and Moharram Khodai defeated Faris and Laith Al Azzouni 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in the doubles match.

Iran had scored two victories in the singles matches Friday when Mustafa Saleh beat Hani Al Ali, and Mansour Bahrami defeated Imad Abu Hamda.

The doubles match was delayed for 20 minutes as there seemed to be a misunderstanding between the Jordanian team and International Tennis Federation (ITF) referee Jeremy Shales as to who would be playing for Jordan.
Jordan's Ali, who suffered a

cramp in the third set of his five-set singles match Friday was scheduled to play the doubles match with partner Abu Hamda, However when it became apparent that be would not be able to play, it was decided that the Azzouni brothers would play. Later on the JTF seems to have decided that Abu Hamda and Faris Al Azzouni would play, but failed to inform the ITF referee in

The Azzouni brothers, Faris 16 and Laith 15 gave it their best as they played Iran's more experienced players.

due time.

Both teams easily held serve in the first two games. The third game in which the younger Azzouni, Laith, was serv-ing was one of longest and most interesting of the threeset match.

The game was levelled at deuce 11 times as impressive returns by Laith robbed Iran of the chance to take the game fast. However Laith doublefaulted and Iran broke serve and also won the following



Faris Al Azzouni

game to lead 3-1. Her Majesty Queen Noor arrived at the Sports Palace Court in the fifth game in which Faris was serving. The game was again held at deuce for 6 times with superb overbeads by Laith. Iran's Bahrami and Khodai again managed to break serve to establish a commanding 4-1 lead.

Bahrami's powerful serves beld Laith and Faris at 40-0 as Iran won the sixth game to lead

Laith answered back with an ace and accurate serves of bis own to win the next game and trail 5-2. Iran's Khodai held serve and clinched the first set



game of the second set and took a 2-0 lead after the 37year-old Bahrami easily held serve (holding six balls in one

The younger Azzouni. showed that be will be a player to be reckoned with in the future as he hit beautiful returns to win the third game trailing 2-1.

From then on Iran easily beld serve and sealed the second set 6-1.

The same thing happened again in the third set, as Jordan only held serve once in the second game. Iran's Bahrami and Khodai who had more cobesion, experience and a mastery of serves won the third set 6-I and concluded a 3-0 victories lead over Jordan.

In a post-match statement to the Jordan Times the Azzouni brothers commended the play of the Iranian players, but said they bad not trained and were not prepared to play a doubles match.

"I was here (on the tennis court) practising with my brother for a possible singles match when I was informed Imad Abu Hamda and I would play the doubles," Faris said. Later on it became apparent the ITF referee bad been initially informed that my brother and I would be playing but he was not told that there was a change of plans. So Laith and I ended up playing."
"We were not really pre-

pared to play the match. Even in training we concentrated on singles matches," added Laith. "We did not expect to be playing, so there was no serious effort to actually prepare us to face such experienced players," both said.

The reverse singles will be played Sunday. It was not clear however, who would be playing for Jordan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Give yourself plenty of time to complete errands today. You may find that staying focussed on your objective is challenging. Treat yourself to a huturious footbath.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you are craving to go straight to those who have the ability to make your credit, career or civic affairs work better and get their. support. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have the opportunity to adv-

ance and progress where those projects that are important in your scheme of things may be involved so do so. GEMINI: (May 2t to June 21)

Whatever discussions you have with those of a business or practical turn of mind can be excellent io showing you a better pathway in the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 2t) Whatever requires that you listen more closely to under-stand and go along with the wishes of one who is a close associate is

now good. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A splendid day to get into whatever opportunities face you to improve and increase your productivity where usual obligations, activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You see the ways and means to have a continued happiness at

whatever outlets you enjoy most with your congenial compo make long time recreational plans. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a good chance to get those things and put into motion that plan of action that you have been considering for your own

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 2t) You like to have your affairs so organised that they run smoothly and this is a perfect day to look at your desires and make a campaign to get them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 2t) Get right into the various means by which you can have more of this worlds goods and get into the specifics required to add to your abundance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You like to do whatev er is necessary in order to gain your personal desires and this is a particularly good day for so doing.

AQUARIUS: (January 2t to February 19) You wisely get out of the social whirl now and concentrating upon gaining the mundane and material maners which are pressuring you

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have the urge to obtain of an intimate nature is closer to you than you realize so reach out and with a little effort it

12.4

72.

can be yours.



"Stanley! It's not polite to burp in the middle of a kiss!"

Bird's No. 33 retired

BOSTON (AP) - Larry Bird ceded Bird's closing remarks. donned his old Celtics warmup "I never put on a uniform to suit and, for one last night, chants of "La-reee", La-reeee, La-reeee" rained down from an adoring, packed house at Boston Garden.

For one last night, he dominated the parquet floor. The crowd roared as, once again, he buried 3-pointers, saved the ball by diving to the court and passed the ball behind his back. It seemed so real to the fans

who had seen it all for 13 years. But they were only memories, video highlights played on huge overhead screens at a 21/2-hour ceremony in which Bird's number "33"" was retired hoisted to the dusty rafters on a green-andwhite banner.

Bird could do almost everything on a basketball court. He couldn't turn back the clock.

Bird, never one to back down on the court, finally gave in to the agony and retired Aug. 18 after a 13-year NBA career.
Parades of his former team-

So while the lights were down as the videos rolled, Bird would rise from his stool and stand as if the painful back that forced his retirement was acting up again.

mates, video greetings from exopponents and an extended conversation with former L.A. Lakers great and longtime opponent

and friend Magic Johnson pre-

play a game. 1 put on a uniform to win," Bird, who wore his war-mups for the entire ceremony, told the crowd in a polished talk. 'I'm going to miss running the pick and roll with (centre) Robert Parish. I'm going to miss throwing the ball down low to (forward) Kevin McHale and watch

him do his work.
"Most of all, believe it or not, I'm going to miss the fans of Boston," he added.

"I did my very best to please each and every one of you," he said. "Tonight, my basketball career is officially over and 1 had a blast. Then he took his 18-month-old

Son Conor from his wife Dinah and walked with him toward the Celtics locker room as the song "small town," was played in tri-bute to Bird's rural Indiana roots and the number "33" rotated in green laser lights on the centrecourt stage he had left.

Bird's teammates from the 1981, 1984 and 1986 championship teams showed up, also wearing Celtic warmups. John-son, Bird's only opponent on the programme, sat through most of it in street clothes.

Then he changed and was introduced in his Laker warmups. He opened the jacket to reveal a Celtics T-shirt.

Larry Bird.

"Larry, there will never, ever, ever, ever be another Larry Bird," said Johnson, who entered the NBA with Bird in 1979 and retired before this season. "I love you. I

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF Connors, Agassi into semis

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Jimmy Connors kept alive his improbably journey toward the Volvo San Francisco Tournament finals, scoring a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Chuck Adams in the quarterfinals Friday night. Connors, unseeded in the tournament, will face Brad Gilbert in the semifinals.
While the top-seeded Agassi, who has commuted to the tournament daily from Las Vegas on his private jet, plays sixtb-seeded Jeff Tarango.

Lowly rise up and bite their betters in NBA

DALLAS (R) — It was a good night for bad teams in the National Basketball Association Friday as cellar dwellers rose up and bit their betters all over the league. Even Dallas won. Sean Rooks scored 26 points and Derek Harper added 22, including the go-ahead free throws with 1:51 remaining, as the Mavericks beld on to beat the Indiana Pacers

their last 25 games and the fourth time all season against 38 losses. At Washington , Pervis Ellison and Buck Johnson each scored 20 points to lead eight Bullets in double figures as the Atlantic Division's worst cruised to a 138-111 victory over the Golden

Vogt wins women's combined, Street takes silver

SHIZUKUISHI, Japan (AP) - Miriam Vogt is a formidable skier at any time. She's especially difficult to handle when she's feeling confident. Vogt got a major ego boost in the form of a gold medal in the women's combined as the World Alpine Ski Championsbips began handing out the loot. Vogt earned the combined gold with two wonderful exhibitions of racing. She finished only .02 seconds behind one of the top slalom skiers in the world, Austria's Anita Wachter, in the opening phase of the combined. On Friday, Vogt placed second in the downbill behind Picabo Street, the 105-104 and snap their eight-game losing streak.

The Mavericks won for just the second time in step into the big leagues of ski racing.

JUMBILE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form **FYNAC** RUPEN CATATH PLATE HAD WHEN HE GOT HIS TAILOR'S BILL. HUMILE Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Jumbies: SILKY FENCE HANGAR OBJECT Answer: You can call two of these a double feature— CHINS

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARII

4 K Q 6 3 EAST WEST *AK76 +J972 + SOUTH

A 1085 The bidding:
South West North East
1 ? Pass 5 ? Pass

+ 10 S 2

Pess Pass Opening lead: Kin, of •
Even the strongest of us can be tempted by the lure of an overtrick.
See what happened to South, declarer at five diamonds, on this hand from a team match.

At this vulnerability we would have made a takeout double of one diamond with the West hand. While we might be a point or so light in high cards, the perfect distribution offers a high degree of safety. Note that game in a major depends only on guessing the heart situation. North bounced directly to five dia-monds because he didn't want to

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION North-South voluerable. South

have the opponents competing in a major suit.

West led the king of spades and East followed with the nine-a suit preference signal for the higher of the remaining side suits, in this case, hearts. Being a good partner, West dutifully shifted to a low heart and declarer saw no harm in letting it ride round to the queen. East's king completed the defensive book, and with clubs distributed the way they were, declarer eventually had to concede a trick in that suit for down one. Unlucky.

down one. Unlucky.

We can find oo good reason for refusing to believe the defenders' signals. The contract is cold unless West holds four clubs headed by the jack (if East holds club length, the ten can be finessed). In that event, declarer will need to engineer an endplay to bring home the becom. Declarer should rise with the ace of hearts at trick two, come to hand with a trump and ruff a spade. Another trump provides the entry for

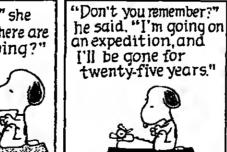
another spade ruff and the king and queen of clubs are cashed. Wher: East shows out on the second club declarer simply exits with a heart. If East wins the trick, the defender is forced to yield a ruffsluff; if West wins, either a ruff-sluff or a club into declarer's tenace nails down the contract.

Peanuts

"Will you miss me while I'm gone?"



"Why?" she said. "Where are you going?"







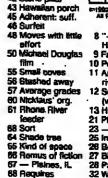
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten 14 Castle or Dum 20 Hgt. 21 Narc's agcy. 22 Straighten of 24 Initial good forme 27 Agains1 29 Musical Bartok 30 Savings letters 31 "— Wha1 Friends Are Friends Are For" 34 Betel paim 38 Father 40 Majors or Grant

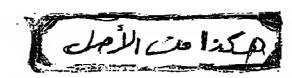


DOWN 1 Stack 2 Seed cover 3 Rejoice 4 Scoundrels 5 NYSE

watchdog 6 Envy color

river
12 Scap Ingredient
(with 44D)
13 Hunt
21 Plate
22 — Boothe Luce
25 intuition
28 Buddy of TV
27 Bigwigs
28 Part of QED
32 Woody or Stave
33 Pekes, a.g. 44 See 120 47 Paper han 49 Emphasis 50 Men, a.g. 51 Fish

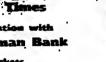
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

| 195,810 | 135,500 | 135,600 | 135,250 |
64,056 | 5,170 | 5,130 | 5,130 |
57,756 | 3,850 | 3,000 | 3,756 |
38,557 | 4,170 | 4,220 | 4,100 |
15,119 | 2,800 | 2,500 | 2,510 |
15,773 | 4,800 | 4,550 | 4,750 |
8,710 | 4,320 | 4,750 | 4,750 |
8,710 | 4,320 | 4,750 | 4,750 |
8,710 | 4,320 | 4,750 | 3,000 |
15,773 | 3,390 | 3,370 | 3,200 |
15,787 | 3,850 | 3,000 | 5,550 |
38,648 | 1,859 | 1,680 | 1,640 | 3,550 |
25,552 | 3,720 | 3,000 | 3,550 |
3,273 | 3,850 | 3,350 | 3,550 |
1,273 | 3,850 | 3,350 | 3,500 |
1,273 | 3,850 | 3,350 | 3,500 |
1,273 | 3,850 | 3,350 | 3,500 |
1,273 | 3,350 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
1,273 | 3,350 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
1,273 | 3,550 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
1,056 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
2,400 | 3,050 | 3,200 | 3,200 |
2,213 | 2,950 | 2,950 | 2,950 |
2,113 | 4,500 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
5,783 | 1,50 | 3,110 | 3,110 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,201 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,760 |
33,500 | 2,436 | 2,450 | 2,500 |
2,972 | 1,240 | 1,250 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
32,200 | 5,740 | 5,750 | 5,750 |
33,500 | 2,436 | 2,450 | 2,400 |
34,541 | 4,500 | 4,250 | 1,500 |
34,133 | 4,700 | 4,600 | 4,760 |
34,541 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,600 |
4,746 | 2,950 | 2,900 | 2,750 |
4,401 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,750 |
4,401 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,750 |
4,402 | 3,150 | 3,150 | 3,150 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 1,460 | 1,500 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 1,460 | 1,500 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 1,460 | 1,500 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 1,460 | 1,500 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 1,460 | 1,500 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,400 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,400 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,400 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,400 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,400 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2,450 | 2,400 | 2,200 |
3,150 | 2, ARAB BANK JORDAN WATIONAL BANK BANK OF JORDAN IMDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
THE BOOKSING BANK
JOHANN TRUSTRIENT BANK
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UNION BANK FOR SAVING 5 INVESTMENT
JOHANN THUSTRIENT 6 FINANCE BANK
RETT ELIAL SAVINGSTNERT FOR HO
AMBRINE CORPORATION/ORPORA
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JOHANN TRUSTRIENT JOHENN PHENCH INSURANCE BOLY LAND INSURANCE ARE LATE 4 ACCIDENT PREVIANCE JOHENN GULF INSURANCE ARMS LIFE & MACHIGANIA THE MACHINE LAND BEFORE THE MATICALANT THE MATICANT THE MATICALANT THE MA ARIA PREPRICEDITICAL MARGYACTURING JORGAN CERANIC PRODUCTRIES JORGAN CERANIC PRODUCTRIES JORGAN CERANIC PRES HARGYACTURING JORGAN PAPER & CARDBOARD PACTORIES THE JORGAN FACTORIES FOR POPULC HISING ARIA CHRESCH HERDERT SIMUSTRIES DARIA GLASS INDUSTRIES DARIA LORGAS INDUSTRIES DARIA LORGAS HOUSERIES INCREMENTARIA LORGAS INDUSTRIES DARIA CHRESCHERT SIMUSTRIET ARIA TOWNSTREET S. INCERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATIVA PAPER CONVENTING A TRADING JORGAN EDIGINAL GROUP LICENSTRIES MITCHAL STEEL HOUSTRIES MITCHAL CARLE SHAPE AND STEEL TORMAN HOUSTRIES MATCHAL JUNCO MATTORAL GABLE WERE MARIPHACTURING JORGANS HUMBERS LEVER MARI

Jordan Times **Financial** Markets Cairo Amman Bank



Currency	Hew York Clase Date 4/2/93	New York Close Dair 5/2/93
Sterling Pound"	1.4415	1.4445
Deutsche Mark	1.6575	1. p603
Swiss Franc .	1.5329	1.5325
French Franc	5.6045	5.6125
Japanese Yes	124.72	124.40.
European Curreny Unit	1.1825 44	1.1755
ISIL Cer STG		

European Opening or 8:00 a.m. GMT

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Eurocurrency Interest Ra	Date: 5/2/93			
Correccy	I MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	ta MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.12	3.25	3.56
Sterling Pound	. 6.19	5.93	5.69	5.50
Deutsche Mark	8.31	8.00	7.62	7.12
Swiss Franc	5.22	5.20	5.06	4.90
French Franc	11.37	11.37	10.25	9. 25
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.25	3125	3.25
European Currency Unit	9.37	9.18	8.93.	8.50

Metal	USD/Oz .	JD/Gm ²	Metal ·	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
1,old	328.35	6.40	Silver	3.67	.080

21 Kars	4 - '					
entral	Bank	of	Jordan	Exchange	Rute	Bulletin

	Date: 6/2/93		
Сиггенсу	. Bid	Offer	
t'.S. Dollar	. 0.6920	0:6940	
Sterling Pound	0.9997	1.0047	
Deutsche Mark	0.4168	0.4189	
Swits Franc	0.4512	0.4535	
French Franc	0.1232	0.1238	
Japanese Yen"	0.5555	0.5583	
Dutch Guilder	0.3702	0.3721	
Swedish .Krona	0.0978	0.0933	
Italian Lira	0.0451	0.0453	
Belgian Franc	0.02020	0.02030	
Per 100 -		-	

Other Currencies	Date: 6/2/93	
Согтелсь	Rid	Offer-
Buhraini. Dinar	1.8150	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	Q. 03675	0.03975
Saudi Kiyal	0.1842	0.1850
Kowaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.7900
Qatari Riyal	0.1880	0.1875
Egiptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyat	1.7620	1.7830
UAE Dirham	0.1875	0.1886
Greek Drachma*	0.3105	0.3155
Cyprict Pound	1.3965	1.4195

lader .	27/1/93 Clase	3/2/93 Close
All-Share	189.69	193.97
Banking Sector	138.22	139.06
Insurance Sector	209.82	213.70
Industry Sector	259.33	268.92
Services Sector	253.61	258.63

Pakistan hosts talks to revive Central Asia 'silk road

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) - Mr. Sharif said. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz regional grouping of 10 Central Asian states Saturday with a call for peace in the vast region to enable it to realise its. economic dreams.

He called on the 10 member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) to ign investment and adopt exportgrowth strategies.

The two-day meeting of the adopt a plan of action that will the ancient silk road from China to Europe by building roads and railways in the region over the next decade

Six former Soviet republics -Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz- and stability in our region," he stan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — and Afghanistan joined founder ECO members Iran, Pakistan and Turkey last year to form the biggest economic bloc after the European Community.
"Because of the natural link-

ages among our countries, these efforts, if effectively coordinated on a regional basis, could make the ECO one of the most dynamic regions of the world by the beginning of the new century."

Civil strife in Afghanistan and Sharif opened a meeting of a new Tajikistan has been a source of concern for the group in its bid to build an economic bloc.

Mr. Sharif said the expanded ECO, representing 300 million people in 10 countries covering about 7.2 million square kilometres, offered a "tremendous opportunity ... to create open markets, attract fore-ign investment and adopt export-of decent life."

He cited cooperation plans in transport and communications, ECO ministerial council is to !rade, energy, industry and agriculture between the newly indefocus on reopening trade along pendent former Soviet republics and their southern neighbours, previously divided by cold war

"For all this to happen we must, however, preserve peace "We need to address warsed. problems of tension and conflict in our region. We must build a secure and prosperous structure for regional cooperation so that we are able to face the challenges of the emerging international order.

Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs Sardar Assef Ali said Friday a trade route linking landlocked Central Asia with Pakistan via western Afghanistan could be operating within



months. ECO Secretary-General Shamshad Ahmad said in a report to the meeting that development of modern transport and communication links among member states was crucial for expansion of

"In my view, the governments of member states have to mobilise, on a priority basis, sufficient resources, both internally and externally, to link them up with each other as quickly as possi-

le," he said.

Mr. Ali said the ECO would study the possibility of building a railway line between a proposed sea port at Gwadur in southwestern Pakistan on the Arabian Sea and Turkmenistan's railhead at Kushka that joins the Central Asian railway system.

"Once this is decided we will request the World Bank to form a consortium to finance this pro-

Yeltsin forms state investment corporation

MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin Friday created a state investment corporation. with initial capital of more than \$1 billion, to stimulate foreign and domestic investment in the Russian economy.

He named bis former chief of staff, Yuri Petrov, to head the corporation, signalling that the organisation will bave political as well as economic clout.

Mr. Petrov, a former ambassador to Cuba, was replaced as presidential chief of staff when hardliners in the Russian Parliament forced Mr. Yeltsin to shuffle his cabinet in December. The investment corporation

"will carry out analysis, selection and implementation" of projects with government funds, credits from the Russian Central Bank and private capital, Mr. Yeltsin's office said in a statement.

The statement did not indicate whal kind of projects the corporation would tackle. But reform economists have been pushing for measures to encourage private investment in the tructure of communications, transportation and housing.

Mr. Yeltsin ordered the corporation to be given at least \$1 billion in state funds as initial operating capital. In addition, \$50 million and 200 billion rubles will be set aside to guarantee the security of foreign investments, the statement said.

Mr. Yeltsin also ordered his government to license the corporation to engage in foreign trade and to give it "the necessary export quotas." The Supreme Soviet legislature will be asked to approve tax exemptions for Rusment said. Meanwhile, the government is scrambling to halt Russia's economic decline but cannot combletely halt inflation or the drop in production, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Fri-

"Stabilization must occur," Mr. Chernomyrdin told reporters after a round-table discussion among government and parliamentary leaders on controlling inflation, which exceeded 2,000 per cent last year, and bolstering production, which fell by 19 per cent in 1992.

Living standards continue to drop, threatening political insta-bility, Labour Minister Gennady Melikian said in a separate brief-

Official unemployment hit a record one million, or 1.4 per cent of the work force of 70 million, and "hidden unemployment" rose to an estimated 7.9 per cent, he said. In the Soviet era, officials said there was no unemployment. "I think that the real-term in-

come of the population has decreased to a critical level. We cannot lower the living standards any more," the labour minister said, warning that Western levels of joblessness could cause a "social explosion" in Russia.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, opening a round-table discussion among government and parliamentary leaders on steps to improve the economy, offered no specifics.

Russian officials, he said, are trying to "create a mechanism that will allow us to stabilise, at least stop or suspend the decline. sian and foreign investors in the corporation's projects, the state-

The round table was to reconvene next week, in an apparent political concession by President Yeltsin to parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, an oppo-nent of the "shock therapy" of former acting prime minister Yegor Gaidar.

Mr. Yeltsin, facing parliamentary opposition, dropped Mr. Gaidar in December for Mr. Chernomyrdin, who made his career in the Soviet oil and gas industry.
Mr. Chernomyrdin has backed

away from his initial plan as prime minister to introduce Soviet-style price controls, and his policies are in flux. Recently. he has declared fighting inflation

the top priority

A law allowing state-owned firms to declare bankruptcy goes into force March 1, although officials say lengthy procedures mean few enterprises will actually be closed or reorganised by the end of the year, delaying any sharp surge in nnemployment.

The labout minister said that formerly, Russia "had no unemmechanisms were not active, and the mechanisms of bankruptcies were not implemented."

"I'm convinced," he said, "that the unemployment levels existing in some European countries are unacceptable for us. In our country, a 10 to 12 per cent unemployment equals an explosion and a catastrophe... there will simply be a social explosion."

He also expressed concern over the growing gap between rich and poor. The highest paid 10 per cent of wage-earners formerly received three to six times more than the lowest 10 per cent, but now earn 11 to 16 times as much, he said.

U.S. consumer credit shoots up to \$725.9 b

WASHINGTON (AP) - American consumers borrowed heavily to buy cars in December, driving up their debt at the fastest rate in nearly two years, the government said Friday.

Consumer installment credit rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.1 per cent in December to \$725.9 billion, the fourth consecutive monthly increase, the Federal Reserve said. It was the biggest increase since

borrowing rose at a 6.4 per cent rate in February 1990.

months.

Credit outstanding rose at annual rates of I.S per cent in November and 0.4 per cent in October. Prior to the most recent gains, credit outstanding had shrunk for seven consecutive

For the year, consumer credit was down 0.3 per cent. That

Brazil seeks

production

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) - Seven

years after Volkswagen's Brazi-

lian unit rolled out its last Beetle

the company, at the request of

President Itamar Franco, is con-

Ford in Brazil, has submitted a

"The idea arose from a con-

Mr. Franco is seeking produc-

tion of a basic car that would be

than those currently produced.

Alain de Smedt said the company could begin production as early as

July or August and plans to make 100 Beetles a day. He said this

would require an investment by

Autolatina of \$30 to \$35 million.

The car would be priced at about \$7,000, \$1,000 less than the

price of the Beetle produced in

"We will give up our profil, we

will forgo covering our fixed

costs, to achieve this competitive

price. On the other hand I think

part... to reduce the cost, this is

really a tax issue," Mr. De Smedt

Autolatina has asked the gov-

ernment to zero its tax on indust-

rial output, known as the IPI, on

According to O Globo news-

paper, union leader Vicente Paulo da Silva criticised plans to

revive the Bcetle, which he called

Tel.: 677420

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obsolete, polluting and noisy.

spokeswoman has said.

news conference.

class in Brazil.

said.

to revive

of V.W.

Beetle

1991 — the first since 1958 — and a 2.6 per cent gain in 1990. The cutback in borrowing dur-

ing the recession and subsequent economic doldrums was a reaction to the huge debt levels that many consumers built up during the go-go years of the 1980s.

Borrowing finally began increasing after many Americans reduced their monthly payments by refinancing their mortgages and other loans at lower interest However, economists said con-

sumers are unlikely to completely revert to the free-spending ways of the previous decade until the economy begins providing more "A number of families have

reduced their debt loads, but they're more cautious. ... I would not look for a sudden surge of Norman Robertson, a private economist in Pittsburgh.

In December, automobile loans advanced at a 7.3 per cent annual rate to \$259.3 billion. following a 4.2 per cent increase in November.

Revolving loans outstanding. which includes credit card balances, increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.7 per cent to \$251 billion, the fifth consecutive increase.

Other consumer loans rose at a 3.1 per cent annual rate to \$215.6 hillion. This category includes loans for mobile homes, education, boats, trailers and vaca-

The various changes left total consumer debt not secured by real estate at the highest total

Despite the changes, foreign

investors complain of long

bureaucratic delays, conflicting

rules, corruption and poor infras-

tainty now comes into the pic-

ture," said Manish Chokhani, an

analyst with brokers Enam Finan-

cial Consultants in Bombay, He

said following the destruction of

the Ayodhya mosque by Hindu

zealots, there was a chance of

mid-term elections within six to

Foreign investors are looking

to the national budget at the end

of February to provide a fresh

spur to the economic reform

programme by cutting taxes and

Mr. Rangarajan said India's

economy was expected to grow

by four per cent in the financial year 1992/93 ending March against a 1.2 per cent rise in gross

domestic product the previous

year, with a good monsoon help-

Minister Pranab Mukherjee said

India must sharply boost its ex-ports or it could face another

In an interview, he said export

growth at 5.9 per cent in the first

eight months of 1992 93 was too

balance of payments crisis.

Newly-appointed Commerce

"Added to this, political uncer-

India urged to do more to win foreign investment

tructure.

eight months.

tariff levels.

ng agriculture.

BOMBAY (R) - Foreign firms to open its stock market to overare keen to invest in India despite seas investors, made the rupee partially convertible and revised recent riots. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said, but India's the foreign exchange regulation central bank chief says more must act (FERA), the cornerstone of be done to convert such interest the protected economy. into reality.

Mr. Rao told reporters that more foreign investors were negotiating for Indian tie-ups. Major potential investors include Royal Dutch-Shell Group.

sidering reviving production of Unilever PLC, Siemens A.G., one of the country's most beloved Asahi Glass Co. and Enron Corp. In a speech in Calcutta Reserve Autolatina, the holding com-pany for Volkswagen (V.W.) and Bank of India (RBI) Governor C. Rangarajan said the economy was showing distinct signs of im-provement because of sweeping proposal to the government and is awaiting a response, a company reforms.

There has been a distinct change in the climate for foreign versation between our president investment," Mr. Rangarajan and the directors of Autolatina and is an opportunity to create 800 to 1,000 new jobs," Labour Minister Walter Barelli told a

Investment approvals between August 1991 and October 1992 totalled \$1.22 billion, including 38 approvals for existing companies wanting to raise their foreign equity to 51 per cent.

But he noted "most of the

more accessible to the masses proposals approved both by the Volkswagen produced its last Beetle in Brazil in 1986 but the government and the RBI have vet to result in the actual flow of car is still one of the most visible investment. This does indicate on the country's roads. It has that much more work needs to be become a symbol of the working done to translate the approvals into actuals." Autolatina President Pierre

Until Mr. Rao introduced major changes to India's inward looking economy in mid-1991, the country had failed to attract the big inflow of foreign capital achieved by China and southeast

low "and it appears we have Asia. In 1991, actual foreign in- missed the bus. vestment was little more than All efforts must now be fo-But since then. India has begun figures, he said.

cused on improving

OECD sees France price. On the other hand I think the government must do its growth until 1994

PARIS (R) — France's economic growth is set to outstrip the European Community (EC) average this year but the ranks of the unemployed will swell further as the wait for more vigorous expansion drags on, the OECD has

"Domestic demand has been weak since spring 1992 and business and consumer surveys point to continuing sluggishness in the coming months," the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has

The think-tank for major industrial nations expected growth in France's gross domestic product (GDP) to slip to 1.ti per cent in 1993 from 1.9 per cent last year before a modest recovery to 2.8 per cent in 1994. France's 1993 budget, pre-

sented in September, was based on a more optimistic growth rate of 2.6 per cent.

But Bank of France Governor Jacques de Larosiere hinted that the government's 1993 growth target could be missed since de-

The outlook for unemployment remains bleak, the OECD said. Unemployment, at 10.4 per cent of the workforce in October, is seen rising to 10.9 per cent in the second half of this year before drifting downwards in 1994.

Strong export growth in early 1992, the motor for growth last year and the cause of a swing from a trade deficit to a surplus, has trailed off as tiemand from abroad slowed. The OECD said the speed of

recovery in external demand will be influenced not only by the growth of export markets but also developments in the currenev relationships with France's major competitors in these markets." It said the onslook hinged on developments in Germany. France's commitment to a stable currency has meant keeping interest rates high to match those set by the German Budnesbank, taming inflation bu slamming the brakes on economic growth.

The timing and degree of monetary easing "depends crucially on trends in German inflavaluation of the currencies of some of France's European trading partners could hurt exports.

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Vance, Owen push on efforts to bring Bosnian war to an end

BELGRADE (R) — International mediators pushed on with efforts to bring Bosnia's 10month-old civil war to an end Saturday, but hopes of parallel talks to restore peace talks in neighbouring Croatia were

In a surprise move, rebel Serbs in the Croatian enclave of Krajina said they will not attend proposed talks at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Kraijina Serb authorities would only negotiate with Croatia after its troups had withdrawn from land they seized in an offensive begun on Jan. 22 to reclaim Serb-held areas of the

Both sides in the conflict were invited by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen last Tuesday to join peace efforts at the United Nations, where negotiations to end the civil war in neighbouring Bosnia resumed Friday after reaching deadlock in Geneva a week ago,

Lord Owen and Mr. Vance will continue discussions with Bos-nia's warring Serbs, Muslims and Croats over the weekend before briefing the U.N. Security Council Monday.

The pair, representing the European Community and the United Nations were optimistic that new U.S. President Bill Clinton was moving behind their three-part peace plan after initial scep-ficism.

The package, based on a new constitution, a ceasefire and division of Bosnia into 10 semiautonomous provinces drawn largely on etbnic lines, has so far only been accepted by Bosnian

In Munich, U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin discussed the Bosnian crisis with allied ministers in a major diplomatic push by President Bill Clinton to end the

bloody civil war there. Mr. Aspin met British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, Ger-.man Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Defence Ministers of France, Germany, Canada and other NATO nations at an annual Western conference on security

policy.

"We're going to try and put together a package after we've consulted with these people...sometime the middle of next week look for something," said Mr. Aspin.

Tanjug said Krajina Serb Offimain town of Knin Friday not to send a delegation to New York. torn down after its 25-kilometre been wiped out when they ran separately with Mr. Aspin.

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's Prime Minister Etienne Tshiseke-di Saturday dismissed President

Mobutu Sese Seko's bid to sack

bim, saying the strongarm leader

had no legal right to do so.
In a television speech Friday night. Mr. Mobutu blamed Mr

Tshisekedi for riots in which at

least 80 people were killed and

said he would ask the transitional

parliament to name a new pre-

"The question is to see if Mr.

Mobutu has the right to say what

he has said. He has none." Mr. Tshisekedi told Reuters. "I was

elected by the national confer-

Mr. Tshisekedi, chosen last

August by the pro-democracy

forum., said an interim constitu-

tion approved by the conference

ence and I remain so.'



they had seen no signs of a

Krajina Serb counter-attack.

although Serb militias were dig-

ging in and strengthening their lines.

The peacekeepers said places along the front-line such as Obrovac, 40 kilometres east of Zadar,

With below-freezing tempera-

tures gripping most of Bosnia and

Croatia, there was little fighting

reported around Krajina during

the night.

Krajina Serb army Commander Mile Novakovic said in an interview published Saturday by

the newspaper Dnevnik in the

northern Serbian town of Novi

said that the land gained by the

Croats would be retaken and

their "general offensive will soon

reporters in Knin that more than

3.000 Croats had been killed in

the fighting since Jan. 22, com-

pared with 92 Serb fighters killed

nesses said armed soldiers had

robbed passers-by in western Bin-

The current clash over a new

banknote, issued by the pro-Mobutu Central Bank but de-

clared inflationary and illegal by

the prime minister, sparked more

riots just over a week ago when

soldiers paid in the new notes

Estimates of the death toil

range from at least 80 to more

than 1,000. Most observers be-

lieve several hundred were killed,

mostly rampaging soldiers mown down by elite presidential troops.

reason for firing Mr. Tshisekedi was that he had failed to form a

Mr. Mobutu said his specific

were unable to spend them.

He was also reported as telling

be completely broken."

and 304 wounded,

were ghost towns.

Serbian forces patrol a field in the self-declared Serbian republic of Krajina. Serbs and Croats have been clashing in southern Croatia since the Croats

launched an offensive against Serbs on Jan. 22 to reclaim territory captured by the Serbs in 1991

It quated government adviser Boro Martinovic as saying the Krajina authorities would only negotiate with the Zagreb government if Croatia "unconditionally fulfilled" U.N. resolutions demanding an end to the hostilities and withdrawal from all land gained since Jan. 22.

The Security Council unanimously condemned Croatia's aggression and called for the thdrawal on Jan. 25. Croatian Defence Minister Go-

jko Susak is already in New Tanjug said Mr. Martinovic added that the Krajina author-

ities "showed their readiness to cooperate with the U.N. by, among other things, refraining from a full-scale counter-attack to liberate the occupied areas of

The Croatian offensive breached a year-old U.N.-monitored ceasefire into buffer zones around the edges of the mountainous Krajina. Serb forces were pushed back

along a broad front of southwest Krajina, inland from the Adriatic port of Zadar, and Croat troops captured a key north-south land route, an airfield and the Peruca hydroelectric dam.

The dam, taken only after a heavy artillery battle, was damcials decided at a meeting in their aged by mines exploded by retreating Serbs and will have to be lorryload of Croatian soldiers had

Mr. Mobutu disputes that document and bis supporters have put forward their own ver-

The two'men are locked in a

long-running power struggle over

reforms which would end Mr.

Mobutu's 28-year grip on the huge central African country.

Mr. Mobutu previously appointed Mr. Tshisekedi as

prime minister in October 1991

but fired him within a week be-

cause he refused to swear alle-

That dismissal caused fresh

riots a month after several cities

were devastated by army-led

looting. More than 250 people

The capital Kinshasa appeared

giance to the president.

died in the two flare-ups.

Zaire premier says dismissal by Mobutu illegal

took away Mr. Mobutu's power calm Saturday after Mr. Mobu-

to bire and fire prime ministers. tu's announcement, although wit-

into one of their own minefields reservoir is drained. while returning to Zadar from the It was being inspected by British experts Saturday using

In Bosnia, the Serb-besieged remote-controlled underwater capital Sarajevo suffered only one minor outbreak of grenade cameras to check whether it will not collapse before the lengthy blasts overnight after being shel-led heavily Friday.

Minor infantry clashes and drainage process is completed. U.N. Protection Force (UN-PROFOR) officials confirmed

mortar attacks were reported in scattered areas throughout the former Yogoslav Republic. German Chancellor Helmut

Kohl told the meeting of senior Western defence officials Saturday the international peace plan on Bosnia was a realistic attempt to end the war. In another apparent signal to

plans major troop cuts in Europe, the chancellor made a passioned plea for the Americans to keep a substantial military presence in Europe in their own interest. Mr. Kohl said the Yugoslav peace plan, on which Mr. Clin-

U.S. President Bill Clinton, who

be implemented quickly once approved by all warring sides.

"The longer the conflict continues, the more likely it is to spread to neighbouring regions,"
Mr. Kohl said. "This would be an

"The peace plan presented by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen is a the war," he said before meeting

new, broader transitional cabinet

including presidential supporters. Mr. Tshisekedi says he was

nnable to because Mr Mobutu's

backers deliberately failed to

come up with the names they

at his modest Kinshasa home, the

premier said it was up to the

transitional parliament, the High

Council of the Republic (HCR),

to decide whether to form a

government without the presi-

"We have no interest at all in

excluding anyone. Clearly if Mr.

Mobutu takes too long over these

names, it's up to the HCR to take

the decision of forming a govern-

ment despite their absence." he

dent's men.

Looking confident and relaxed

deal with the situation. The April 11 referendum will ton has voiced reservations, must set the principles of a new Rus-

sian constitution and decide the balance of power between the executive branch of government, headed by Mr. Yeltsin, and the legislative branch, headed by Mr. Khasbulatov. immediate threat to the security Mr. Khasbulatov's "arrogant" of Europe as a whole."

Rebels call off Angola peace talks UNITA official, Jaka Jamba,

LISBON (R) — The Angolan rebel movement the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), said Saturday it would not attend planned peace talks with the government in Addis Abbab next week and would continue to fight until the government was prepared to

make concessions. UNITA, which rejected its defeat by the ruling MPLA in U.N.supervised elections last September, also announced that it would release foreigners captured in the

The announcements were contained in a statement issued on behalf of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, which was faxed to Reuters in Lisbon.

northern oil town of Soyo Sun-

UNITA said it could not attend a fresb round of peace talks with the government, which was due to start in the Ethiopian capital on Feb. 10, because its delegation to a first round of talks in Addis Ababa from Jan. 27 to 30 had not yet returned to UNITA headquarters in the central Angolan

city of Huambo.
"The UNITA delegation to the Addis Ababa negotiations has not arrived in Huambo to give its report to colleagues in the interior. In corsequence it is not possible to organise another round of negotiations on Feb. 10," the UNITA statement said.

The statement said a senior

MOSCOW (AP) - President

Boris Yeltsin and his chief politic-

al rival, parliament speaker Rus-

lan Khasbulatov, stung each

other with verbal punches re-

miniscent of Mr. Yeltsin's bitter

Mr. Khasbulatov started the

exchange of insults by telling the

visiting Swedish prime minister that Mr. Yeltsin had "failed to

cope with the duties" of presi-

dent, according to Russian oews

The pipe-smoking Russian par-

liament leader added that Mr.

Yeltsin was forcing the country into a divisive national referen-

dum and "does not know how to

feud with Mikhail Gorbachev.

would maintain contact the U.N. special representative for Ango-

la, Margaret Anstee, to agree on fresh dates for a meeting. But it accused the government of failing to offer concessions to UNITA and said the rebel movement would continue to fight until it was offered conditions for

UNITA and the ruling MPLA signed a peace agreement in 1991 ending 16 years of civil war, but it broke down after UNITA rejected its election defeat and Angola lapsed back into full-scale

civil war six weeks ago.
Accusing Angolan President
and MPLA leader Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of winning "irregular and frandulent elections," UN-

"He does not deceive us, be does not propose a truce, simply a policy of victors and van-

"It is only in this context that we took our manly decision to resist until we achieve a better halance.'

We want peace and we will seek peace when this becomes a reciprocal conquest (for both sides). Until then, we have right on our side and we will prove that

we have force too." The statement said that UN-ITA would release foreigners, captured when it overan the northwestern oil town of Soyo

Yeltsin, Khasbulatov exchange verbal jabs

and "tactless" remarks displayed

foreign guest," presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov

said in a statement to the media.

The parliament speaker apparently "fails to realise that

such statements humiliate Russia

and abuse not only the president,

but also Russian politics and the

Russian people's dignity," Mr.

The Swedish Prime Minister

Karl Bildt, did not take sides in

The exchange came as repre-

sentatives of the parliament and Mr. Yeltsin's cabinet beld round-

table talks on how to improve the

former Communists elected be-fore the Soviet Union's collapse,

has pushed for a "softer" transi-

tion to a free market and more

support for ailing state industries. It forced Mr. Yeltsin to jettison

former acting Prime Minister tiny per Yegor Gaidar and replace him space.

The parliament, dominated by

Kostikov said.

the dispute.

"lack of control before the

airport in northern Angola Sun-

The rebels seized 17 foreigners in Soyo - 14 Portuguese, one Argentine, one Briton and one Italian - but the statement did not say how many would be

The UNITA statement bitterly attacked dissidents in the rebel movement who had defected to the government.

It also said that a statement by UNITA's official spokesman Jorge Valentim earlier this week proposing a federal structure for Angola with considerable powers devolved to provinces did not reflect the movement's official policy.
The statement said Mr. Valen-

tim bad merely floated the idea in a personal capacity.

"These are not suggestions to be attributed to the UNITA leadership, neither do they concern us at this critical moments." the statement said.

Meanwhile, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said Friday South Africa was losing patience with both the Angolan government and UNITA rebels and would not care even in the unlikely event of Cuba reploying

troops in Angola.
He against dismissed Angolan government allegations that South Africa was giving mibtary assistance to UNITA.

with a veteran Communist-era manager, Viktor Chernomyrdin,

late last year. Mr. Khasbulatov's "surprise

attack" during the round-table

discussions shows he is a "two-

faced" politician with a "danger-

ous inclination toward mean political intrigues," Mr. Kostikov

Mr. Yeltsin has not traded such

barsh words with any political figure except Mr. Gorbachev, who drummed Mr. Yelssin out of

the politburo in 1988. Mr. Yeltsin got bis revenge in 1991, when Mr. Gorbachev resigned as Soviet

Mr. Gorbachev bas since criti-cised Mr. Yeltsin's economic policies and warned that they

were impoverishing the nation.

Mr. Yeltsin responded by taking

away Mr. Gorbachev's limousine

and forcing his think-tank, the Gorbachev Foundation, into a

tiny portion of its former office

president.

Paul McCartney launches' new world tour'

LONDON (AP) — Paul McCartney launched an international concert tour with a spirited defence of his right to speak out on environmental and human rights issues, both close to his heart. "I don't really want this job, but I've got this attention from the media and I feel I've got to use it." the former Beatle told a news conference at the London Docklands Arena. "I feel people don't mind me being their voice in these things," he said, adding, "when governments sort (these issues) out, I'll stop." The "new world tour is McCartney's first international tour since the "Get Back" concert series in 1989-90, which publicised the activities of the environmental group Friends Of The Earth. After four "showcase" concerts later this month in Milan and Frankfurt, it officially opens on March 5 in Perth. Australia. The tour will move from there to the United States. Dates for this segment have not yet been announced. Concerts will include material from McCartney's latest album, Off The Ground, which was released Monday in Britain. It contains several gritty oumbers protesting what the singer calls the "wrongs of the world." An ebullient McCartney, now 50, said Friday he was looking forward to recording one song with former Beatles Ringo Starr and George Harrison, but rejected reports that the 1960s hit group will reform.

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Toilet-trained teenagers in brush with the law

BANGKOK (R) - Police have arrested a juvenile robbery gang who specialised in crawling through sinall squat toilet bowls into the houses of their victims. The five youngsters, aged be-tween 13 and 14, smashed cesspool tanks and squeezed through the ground-level toilet bowls of abont 40 honses, police in Ayudhya, north of Bangkok, said. The determined robbers said they usually took long showers in the houses before making off with valuables. The boys were canght after they bad spent lavishly on small remotecontrolled race cars and toys.

newspaper editors act on bugging

LONDON (Agencies) - Britain's newspaper editors said they industry's ir journalists from ν . devices or telephone taps — except in spe-cial cases of public interest.

The move foll oublication last December by ne British newspapers of the transcript of an intimate telephone conversation allegedly between Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles, a

former girlfriend. The transcript reportedly was based on a tape of the call. Critics accused the press of unwarranted intrusion.

"The climate ...has been such that really one has got to react to public anxiety and spell these things out," said Grahame Thomson (CQ), secretary of the Committee of Editors that reviews the code on behalf of the Press Complaints Commission, an industry

The commission last week condemned publication of the socalled "camillagate" tape and called for legislation to outlaw the bugging of private telephone calls for purposes of publication.

In a statement Friday, the committee said it has inserted a clause into the code instructing journalists not to obtain or publish material gained by using clandestine listening devices or by intercepting private telephone conversa-

Meanwhile, Prime Minister John Major has rejected an apology from a magazine that published rumours of an alleged extra-marital affair and is going ahead with a libel suit and demanding "substantial" damages.

The magazine, New Statesman And Society, reacted with disappointment to the news and repeated an offer to make "any further public statements vindicating the prime minister's reputation that he may require", a statement said.

"That offer has not yet been taken up, but it remains open," the left-leaning magazine added. The spokesman for Mr. Major's solicitors, Biddle And Co., said the New Statesman's letter to the prime minister, sent Monday and reprinted in this week's edition of the left-leaning magazine, did not go far enough to satisfy him.

"The litigation continues until the New Statesman and the other defendants take a realistic view of the matter," the spokesman said. He did not elaborate and Mr. Major's Downing Street office declined to add to or comment on the statement.

In a rare move for a prime minister, Mr. Major launched libel proceedings last week against the New Statesman and Scallywag, a monthly satirical magazine, for publishing accounts of rumours that be bad had an affair with catering manager Clare Latimer, 41. Both have denied any impropriety and Ms. Latimer has also sued

Scallywag editor Simon Regan said Mr. Major's lawyers had demanded "payment of a substantial sum as compensation to vindicate his reputation" in letter to the magazine.

N. Ireiand killers

to marry across

sectarian divide

BELFAST (R) - Two convicted killers from opposite sides of the sectarian divide in Northern Irefand are to get married in prison next month. Roman Catbolic Anna Moore, 46, is serving a life sentence for a pub bombing which killed 11 off-duty soldiers and six civilians in 1982. She is to marry Protestant Bobby Corry, 43, also serving life for murder after a 1972 pub bombing. Offi-cial sources said it will be the first "across the divide" marriage in the 23 years of political and sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland. The campaigns by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, and Protestant extremists who want the province to stay part of Britain, have claimed more than 3,000 lives. Ms. Moore and Mr. Corry first exchanged letters in Maghaberry Jail and then used up their quota of visiting days to meet each other. They plan to marry at a special service in the prison chapel but there will

be no honeymoon. They will be returned to their separate cells to continue their sentences. Polish police say

WARSAW (R) — Three Polish altar-boys bave been charged by police with 39 cases of theft, mostly from priests and fishermen, Polish news agency (PAP) said. It quoted Wieslaw Dybas. police spokesman for the southeastern town of Krosno, as saying a 12-year-old and two 13-yearolds robbed 12 priests and systematically broke into the cars of anglers on fishing trips to a local river. Dybas said police found an automatic rifle and large quantities of ammunition on the boys.

altar-boys robbed

priests, angiers

trish censors ban **Bad Lieutenant film**

DUBLIN (AP) - Ireland's censors have banned an American film about a crooked cop. Bad Lieutenant, starring Harvey Keitel and directed by Abel Ferrara, charts the moral descent of a New York detective who abuses his position to feed his addictions to sex, drugs and gambling. Acclamied by some critics, it features graphic violence and a masturbation scene.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

AIDS vaccine is in testing phase

MERIDEN, Conn. (AP) - A vaccine that has been shown in tests to spur an immune response against the AIDS virus is going through its first large-scale clinical trial in Sweden. The trial involves a vaccine called Vaxsyn, developed by Microgenesys fnc. the company announced the clinical trials. The study, which has started in Sweden, is the last hurdle that Microgenesys must clear before it can start commercial production of its vaccine. The medication would be used to treat people already infected with the AIDS virus. Microgenesys was the first to receive federal approval to test an AIDS vaccine on humans in 1987. Vaxsyn is currently being tested on about 1.500 people in the United States. Canada and Sweden. The vaccine has been shown in tests to spur an immune response against the AIDS virus and stop the loss of crucial CD4 white blood cells. The latest test will include 1,000 infected Swedes who have white blood cell counts that are lower than those in the current trials. It will be the first test that reveals whether Vaxsyn affects the course of the disease. The study is intended to last six years and eventually enroll patients from Denmark, Norway and Finland.

Pakistan court frees Bhutto's husband

KARACHI (R) - A Pakistan anti-terrorist court Saturday freed Asif Ali Zardari, husband of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, after more than two years in jail without a conviction. "It is the people's victory," a delighted Zardari said in an interview. "It shows the cases against me were cooked up. There is no truth in the charges." "Long live Zardari," chanted about 500 supporters who danced, applauded and tossed garlands of red roses when Mr. Zardari walked out of the hospital where he has been treated for pain in the joints and flashed V for victory signs toward the crowd. Pakistan's most prominent political prisoner said he hoped to go to London to see his wife, the former prime minister, who gave birth to their third child — a daughter — Wednesday. The Karachi anti-terrorist court granted bail to Mr. Zardari on the last of 12 charges filed against him for alleged corruption during the 20 months when Ms. Bhutto was prime minister. Mr. Zardari has been acquitted on nine of the charges, including murder, and granted bail on two. His bail for the last charge, extortion, is a surety of 500,000 rupees (\$19,000) and the same amount in personal bonds, his lawyer Raja Qureshi said.

Clinton signs family leave bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bill Clinton signed the first bill of his 16-day-old presidency — major social legislation granting workers unpaid leave for family emergencies. Cheers and applause erupted from hundreds of supporters as Mr. Clinton signed the bill at a sun-filled ceremony in the White House Rose Garden. Democratic Party leaders said approval of the measure, twice vetoed by former President George Bush, symbolised the end of more than a decade of division between Congress and the White House. It opened the way for progress on stalled domestic legislation, they said. "It was America's families who have beaten the gridlock in Washington to pass family leave," Mr. Clinton said. He said the swift passage of the bill by Congress was a signal that "we have tried to give this government back to the American people." "Today marks the end of gridlock and a new beginning," Vice President Al Gore said at the televised ceremony.

Mr. Clinton cited the Family Leave Bill as the first ilem on a list of social legislation he wants passed. "There is a lot more we need to do," he said, listing welfare reform, tougher child support enforcement, expanding the earned income tax credit and expanding child immunisation programmes.

Clinton may cancel space station

WASHINGTON (AP) - Early versions of the Clinton administration budget would cancel two of the United States' most expensive science projects — the \$30 billion space station Freedom and the \$8.2 billion super conducting supercollider, congressional sources said. President Bill Clinton called for further review of the projects, a congressional source said, after Budget Director Leon Panetta proposed that both the space station and the supercollider be cancelled. "The president was not comfortable with a budget that did not contain the station and sent it down for further review," the informant said. The sources talked on condition of not being named. Mr. Panetta proposed killing the two projects during a meeting with Clinton cabinet officials last weekend at Camp David. Plans call for the state of Texas to contribute about \$875 million towards the total cost of the supercollider and for some \$1.7 billion to come from foreign participants, including Russia, China, Japan and the European

Clinton's 2nd choice for attorney general bows out

from consideration as U.S. attorney general, saying a babysitter sbe employed had technically been an illegal alien.

It was the second time since President Bill Clinton's term began that a potential occupant of the post as the top U.S. law enforcer has pulled out because of the discovery that she had hired an illegal alien. At least this time Mr. Clinton

found out about the problem before nominating Ms. Wood as his choice. Ms. Wood, 49, pulled out Friday night. It was two weeks to the day

after Connecticut corporate lawyer Zoe Baird, 40, had to withdraw her nomination as the first U.S. woman attorney general because she had hired a couple from Peru, in the country illegally, as household servants. The public outcry over Ms.

Baird's nomination created a

it impossible for anyone with a similar case to be considered for the job. Ms. Wood insisted that she did not break the law, and did not have a "Zoe Baird" problem. "I

did not and I do not." she said in a statement. She hired the babysitter, problem" and White House

WASHINGTON (R) — New York Federal Judge Kimba March 1986, months before Con-Wood has withdrawn her name gress passed the Immigration Regress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act that made it against the law to employ illegal immigrants. The woman was technically an illegal alien for seven years including one year in

Ms. Wood's employ.

She said she had kept meticulous records of the woman and paid all the necessary taxes on her. Ms. Baird had only paid taxes for her workers after her case surfaced.

But given the sensitivity over the subject, Ms. Wood was forced to withdraw. White House spokesman George Stephano-poulos insisted Mr. Clinton did not force her to do so, but made clear she would have had difficulties being confirmed by the Sen-

"She did not break the law. Let's be clear about that.

"At the same time, I think you would recognise that in this en-vironment, it would be very diffipolitical environment that made cult, and probably a very arduous and tortuous confirmation process, and this information no doubt would have affected the deliberations had it been known earlier." Mr. Stephanopoulos

told reporters. He said Mr. Clinton asked her twice if she had a "Zoe Baird



Judge Kimba Wood counsel Bernard Nussbaum asked

ber once. She said no all three Her illegal alien case was disco-

vered during scrutiny of her

financial records Thursday night, Mr. Stephanopoulos said. Some newspapers were already reporting her as the likely nominee. Mr. Clinton said in a statement, "I understand and respect Judge Wood's decision not to proceed further with the possibility of being nominated as attorney general. I was greatly impressed with her as a lawyer, a judge and a person. I respect her legal talents, judicial record and in-

"I wish her well," he said. Ms. Wood's withdrawal cast a cloud over what had been an otherwise good week for the White House as it was able to keep the focus on improving the U.S. economy.